

**Hizbollah vows anti-Israel raids**

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Hizbollah group, responding to threats of military action by Israel, vowed on Sunday its fighters would wage suicide raids on Israeli targets worldwide. "I say to all the world, it will vanquish you," Hizbollah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said. He was speaking at the funeral of four Hezbollah fighters killed in a Dec. 11 clash in Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon, in which one Israeli soldier died. "Our struggle can reach any place where the enemy is found," Sheikh Nasrallah's deputy, Sheikh Naeem Qassem, said at a similar rally in the South Lebanon town of Nabatiyyeh, facing the Israeli-held border zone. Four days after the clash, Israel's army chief Ehud Barak said the Israeli military was free to strike at Hizbollah wherever it wanted in Lebanon, regardless of the effect on Middle East peace talks. "We promise no immunity to Hizbollah anywhere throughout Lebanon, and what we need to do, we will do," General Barak said then.

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**Police free kidnapped Syrian children**

MADRID (AFP) — Spanish police said Sunday they had freed two kidnapped children whose Syrian father is a key witness in the trial of a man accused of helping finance the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro. Abdul and Rula Nasimi, aged 14 and 13 respectively, were released when a special police unit raided a flat in a Madrid suburb at 3.00 a.m. (0200 GMT). The three Colombians holding them were arrested and three other Colombians were also detained, police said. The children's father, Mustapha Nasimi, is a witness in the prosecution of Monzer Al Kassab, arrested in Madrid in June 1992 and charged with committing an act of piracy for his alleged involvement in the hijacking by the Palestine Liberation Front of the Achille Lauro, during which an American was killed. The ill-fated ship sank earlier this month following an engine room fire while it was cruising off the coast of Somalia. Mr. Kassab was freed in July 1993 on bail of \$8 million and on condition he be reported to police every two weeks. When his trial opened in September the prosecution asked for a prison sentence of 29 years.

**Syria blasts U.S. over Golan vote**

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has criticised the United States for voting against a United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. A Foreign Ministry spokesman described Washington's action as being biased towards Israel and said the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, Christopher Ross, was summoned to be told about Syria's astonishment over the U.S. move. The resolution, passed by the General Assembly on Friday, said Israel's continued occupation of the Golan was a stumbling block to achieving a comprehensive Middle East peace. Seventy-seven countries voted in favour and two — the United States and Israel — voted against. There were 70 abstentions. "The U.S. vote against the resolution appears as a vote against the basis of the peace process," the spokesman said.

**U.S. pilot dead in Korea downing**

WASHINGTON (AFP) — One of the U.S. Army helicopter pilots downed in North Korea is dead while the other was reported alive and uninjured, President Bill Clinton said Sunday. "This tragic loss of life was unnecessary," said Mr. Clinton in a prepared statement. "It was the first word on the fate of the crew whose helicopter went down in North Korea during an operation near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North Korea from South Korea." Mr. Clinton said he had been informed by Representative Bill Richardson, who was in Pyongyang on other business, that one of the pilots was killed when the helicopter went down. Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon of Clarksville, Tennessee, was reported dead and Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall of Brooksville, Florida, was reported alive and uninjured, the White House said. (See inside for earlier story)

**Kidnapped traders freed in Somalia**

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Two European businessmen abducted by Somali bandits in the northwestern town of Bossaso four days ago were freed Sunday after intervention by clan elders, U.N. sources said. The businessmen, a Frenchman and a Belgian, both involved in the fish trade in Bossaso, were taken hostage on Wednesday. The Belgian was named as Valter Kempe, while the Frenchman was identified only as Christian. A Somali negotiator was killed when a riot broke out following apparent disagreement between the hostage takers and a group of negotiators made up of elders and representatives from the Somali Salvation Democratic Front faction. The bandits fled after the exchange of fire, leaving behind their hostages. Separately, a group of armed Somalis abducted a young French aid worker working for the relief agency International Action Against Hunger (IAAH) on Saturday and demanded that the agency pay compensation for Somalia killed by bandits while working for the aid group (see page 12).

**Fighting flares in north Afghanistan**

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Fighting erupted in Afghanistan's northern Faryab province on Sunday between forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and the militia of Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum. Radio Kabul said. Clashes flared after Gen. Dostum's troops attacked the positions of pro-Rabbani forces, said the radio, monitored here. The radio, which is controlled by Mr. Rabbani's government, claimed that the attacks were repulsed. There was no independent

**Dudayev softens stand as Russians press hard**

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — Chechnya's President Dzhokhar Dudayev agreed Sunday for the first time to meet lesser Russian envoys as Russian forces blasted positions around the breakaway republic's capital Grozny. Hoping to negotiate from strength, Russia said it bombarded targets around Grozny on Sunday, but promised not to storm the city, inviting Mr. Dudayev to last-chance peace talks. Mr. Dudayev said he would meet Russian negotiators if they were given full bargaining powers. But he stressed he would meet them only in Grozny, not in Moscow, in the neighbouring Russian republic of Northern Ossetia, where the military operation to end Chechnya's three-year independence bid is being coordinated, according to his spokesman Movladi Udogov. "I am ready to receive your representative," Mr. Dudayev said in a telegram to Mr. Yeltsin quoted by Mr. Udogov.

It marked a climbdown from a telegram Mr. Dudayev sent Saturday as president and premier of the Caucasus republic, in which he had insisted on talking to Russian President Boris Yeltsin or Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin. That would have meant Russian acceptance of him as an equal. Mr. Dudayev also told a news conference Sunday he would be willing to organise a referendum on the status of Chechnya, whose independence he declared unilaterally in 1991 amid the collapse of the Soviet Union as a compromise measure, but said it was only the Chechen people, not Mr. Yeltsin, who would decide its status. Mr. Dudayev has also asked Turkey to mediate in the conflict and called for a ceasefire in the breakaway Caucasian region, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said.

Mr. Dudayev on Saturday sent a message to President Suleyman Demirel asking for

Turkey's aid in ending the fighting. Mr. Demirel later that day told President Yeltsin of the rebel leader's willingness to silence the guns in Chechnya, the ministry said in a statement.

Predominantly Muslim Turkey has ethnic and religious links with the one million Chechens. It has urged Moscow and Mr. Dudayev to solve the Chechnya dispute through negotiations that preserve Russia's territorial unity. Many Turks feel sympathy towards their co-religionists in Chechnya whom they see as Turkic cousins. The Muslim peoples of the Caucasus have historically looked towards the Turks as their protectors against Russian southward expansion.

Mr. Yeltsin had issued a toughly worded statement Sunday ordering Dudayev to go to Moscow for peace talks with Russian secret services chief Sergei Stepashin and Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Yegorov.

"If a document relating to a ceasefire and to the laying down of arms in Chechnya is signed in your presence today I will consider it proof of your willingness to normalise the situation and restore peace and calm in Chechnya for the good of the peoples of Russia," said Mr. Yeltsin, quoted by Interfax.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Viacheslav Kostikov, told Echo Moscow radio that Mr. Yeltsin himself would not sit down with Mr. Dudayev "as long as the disarmament process has not begun."

Until now, negotiations have proved fruitless because Mr. Dudayev has refused to negotiate the status of his tiny republic and has insisted Russian troops leave. With the stakes so high, Mr. Yeltsin is unlikely to agree to that. The Russian government tried and failed three times to contact Mr. Dudayev on Saturday before a deadline

for Chechen forces to surrender expired at midnight (2100 GMT), officials said.

Mr. Yegorov, the deputy prime minister appointed by Mr. Yeltsin to negotiate with Mr. Dudayev, was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying that the Chechen's only remaining option was to turn himself in as a prisoner.

Sunday's attacks followed Chechnya's refusal to meet the deadline for surrender, Russian authorities said.

Russian jet bombers attacked five bridges on the River Terek north of Grozny, a Chechen tank emplacement and other "strategic" targets in the Khankala area, where a military airport and a separatist command post are located, said a spokesman for Yegorov.

The planes, part of a task force dispatched last Sunday to clamp down on the tiny republic, started bombing at 10.00 a.m. (0700 GMT), said the spokesman, Sergei Butin, quoted by the Russian news agencies ITAR-TASS and Interfax.

But Chechen authorities denied that positions so close to the besieged capital had been attacked.

Rebel positions and civilian houses in Petropavlovsk, 15 kilometres northwest of Grozny, were also shelled on Sunday, witnesses said. The area was shelled on three separate occasions after the deadline expiry, residents said.

Russian officials insisted that storming Grozny with ground troops, which military experts agree would be bloody, was not on the cards. "There will not be an assault on Grozny, but the destruction of strategic points in Grozny and in the area," Mr. Filatov told AFP after a press conference in Moscow.

The ITAR-TASS agency quoted a Russian parliament deputy as saying that Defence Minister Pavel Grachev had ordered his forces "to eliminate" armed groups throughout Chechnya, but to spare Grozny.

**Rabin ready for compromise over W. Bank redeployment**

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday he was ready for a compromise with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over the vexed question of an army redeployment on the West Bank ahead of Palestinian elections.

"It is necessary to find a compromise formula between the Palestinian demand for a total Israeli army withdrawal from Palestinian towns and the Israeli plan to carry out a redeployment," Mr. Rabin told the cabinet at its weekly meeting. "This question and that of security arrangements represent the main obstacle to an accord on holding elections" to a new autonomy council to run Palestinian affairs, Mr. Rabin said.

PLO officials said Mr. Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat would meet on Wednesday to try to break the deadlock in peace talks over the planned Israeli troop pullout.

"President Arafat and Mr. Rabin will meet this week to discuss the peace talks which are in trouble over" (said) Saeb Erekat, member of the Palestinian self-rule authority. Another PLO official said the talks would take place at the Erez entrance to Gaza.

"It will be a very crucial meeting, and let's hope this meeting will end up putting the peace process back on track," Dr. Erekat, in charge of local government for the authority that administers self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, told Reuters. Mr. Rabin's press office

Israeli and PLO officials said during recent talks in Oslo that Nobel laureates Arafat and Rabin had agreed to suspend peace talks in Cairo until high-level meetings resolved disputes over redeployment, which was to precede long-delayed elections for a Palestinian council.

Palestinians have said they will not vote under the barrels of Israeli guns. Palestinian elections are the next main phase of the Israeli-PLO peace deal signed in Washington last year.

Mr. Arafat told diplomats from the United States, Russia and the European Union in Gaza that Israel's position set out at the last session of talks in Cairo last week was "a clear violation of the rules of the peace process," the PLO leader's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina said.

Israel proposed changes to the September 1993 declaration of principles, "especially regarding the redeployment of Israeli occupation forces before elections," Mr. Abu Rudeina said.

Under the declaration of principles on autonomy, Israeli troops are to pull out of West Bank towns by the eve of elections, which should have been held in July.

But Israel has been increasingly reluctant to commit itself to a redeployment following the killings of 45 Israelis since the start of self-rule.

According to a secret foreign ministry document published Sunday, Israel has drawn up a plan to hand over three West Bank towns to Palestinian self-rule quickly

Extracts published in the Maariv newspaper revealed that Israel envisages wide-ranging autonomy in the towns of Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin in the north of the West Bank.

A rapid handover would strengthen Mr. Arafat's hand against hardline groups such as the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas which oppose the peace process with Israel, the document said.

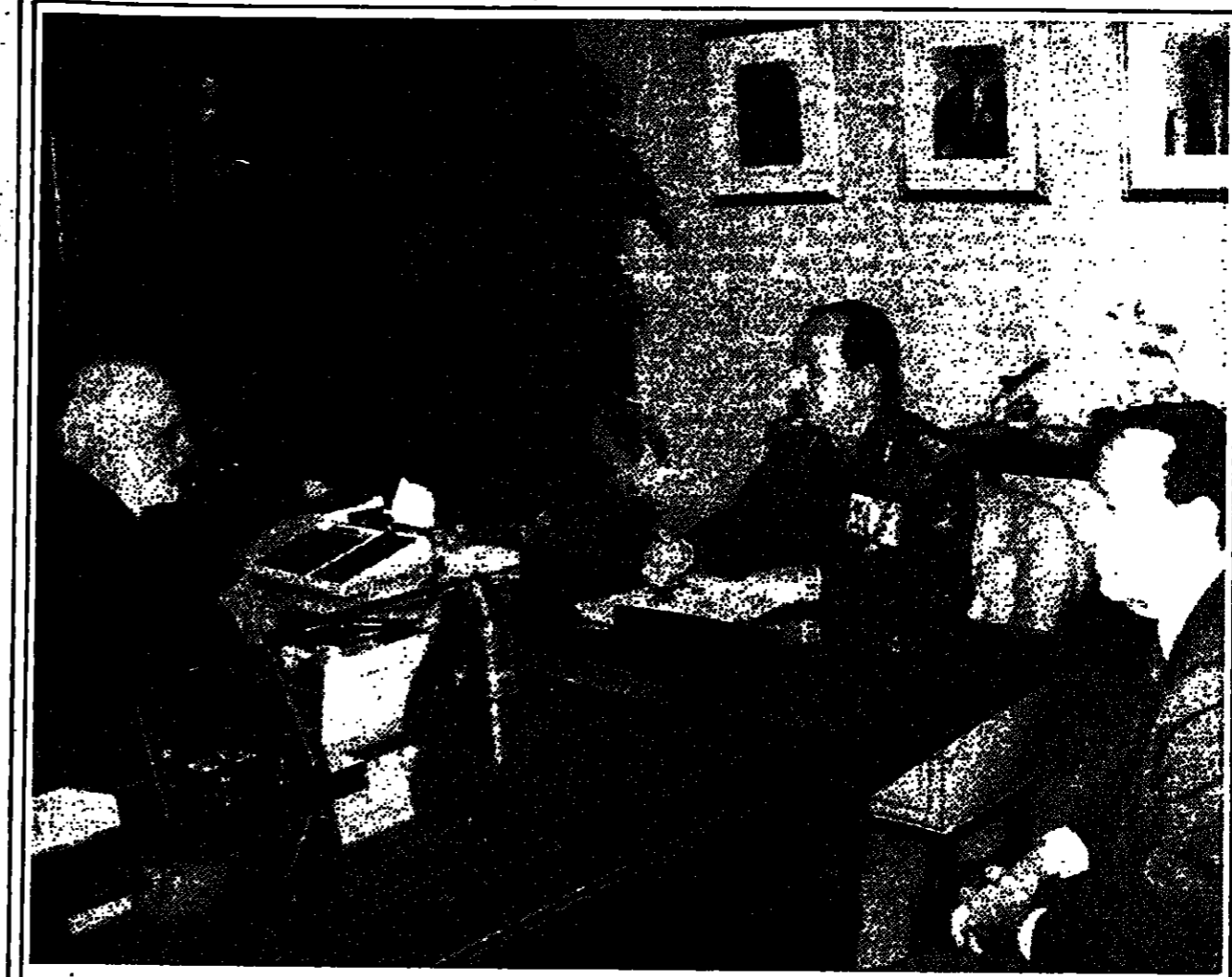
The towns would form one of three zones in the West Bank, it said. The second zone would group Jewish settlements, it added without elaborating.

A third, mixed zone would be jointly controlled by Israel and the Palestinians, according to the document.

Israel would be responsible for security of the zone while Palestinians would take charge of most other functions apart from duties such as supplying water and electricity.

Jerusalem is not mentioned in the document. It said the foreign ministry favoured giving way to Palestinian demands on the role and size of a self-rule council to run affairs in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The PLO wants a 120-member council with legislative and executive powers, but when talks first started on the issue Israel was suggesting it should have just 20 to 30 members and a mainly administrative role.



**KING VISITS GHQ:** His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday called at the Armed Forces General Headquarters (GHQ), where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Miral and senior officers. King Hussein and Gen. Miral discussed issues of interest to the

Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary (Armed Forces photo)

**Crown Prince meets Chamber of Commerce board, stresses need to boost investment climate**

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday received at the Royal Court the president and members of the board of the Amman Chamber of Commerce and reviewed with them issues of concern to the chamber. Stressing the importance of having meetings among representatives of various sectors in the Kingdom, Prince Hassan dealt with issues related to providing the suitable climate for encouraging investment and means of preparing a trade arbitration law through benefiting from the experiences of France, Britain, and the United States with the aim of making Jordan an international arbitration centre for the Middle East.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday meets with the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Commerce (Petra)

attract investors to Jordan. Mr. Murad reviewed the achievements of the Amman Chamber of Commerce since its establishment, and said the board, which was elected earlier this month, was keen to implement the directives of Prince Hassan in developing the commercial sector. The meeting was attended by the prince's private advisor Mohammad Al Saqqaf, legal advisor Awn Khasawneh, political advisor Ahmad Mango and the director general of the Amman Financial Market (AFM).

**GCC opens summit today**

MANAMA (AFP) — Security issues will top the agenda of a summit meeting of Gulf Arab leaders opening here Monday, but officials said border disputes would probably be discussed on the sidelines of the session. The leaders of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states will also discuss economic cooperation and relations with Iraq and Iran at their 15th summit, lasting three days.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) drew up 19 points for discussion at preparatory meetings Saturday. Bahraini Foreign Minister heikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa said Gulf leaders may discuss border disputes which had damaged their relations.

The leaders of the GCC will have enough time to tackle issues concerning them, including border disputes between certain members," Sheikh Mohammad

**Ministers reply to deputies' questions on foreign workers in hotels, AIDS**

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srour urged the House on Sunday to focus attention on such questions like compensation to farmers who incurred losses from the recent floods, improvement of the living conditions of government employees and the resolution of the Islamic conference held in Casablanca which overlooked Jordan's historical trusteeship of the Islamic places in Jerusalem.

The speaker's call came shortly before the deputies listened to replies to queries raised by House members concerning schools in villages, the creation of youth centres in Zarqa and other issues.

Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan, replying to a question by Deputy Badar Riyat, said foreign workers in Amman hotels constitute 32 per cent of the total employees.

He said the hotels were giving priority in employment to Jordanians and that hotels and restaurants in Amman were forced to hire non-Jordanians.

The minister said 19 of the reported cases involved children under 15 years of age, four between 15 and 19 years, 72 between 20 and 29 years, nine between 40 and 49 and 12 over 50.

The minister said that all visitors to Jordan are subjected to the AIDS test if they plan to stay here for more than a month. The ministry has tested 346,209 persons since 1981.

The minister of tourism also replied to a question about the hotel training college and said that 1,640 so far have graduated from it. The House approved an amendment to a law on social and voluntary societies and referred to its legal committee a government draft law on reforming public administration.

The House referred to the ministers of industry and trade and finance a proposal for amending a law on customs duty on imported cars suggesting that cars made up to 10 years earlier can be licensed rather than five years according to the current regulations.

Following an intense debate in which the minister of state for prime ministry affairs and justice minister participated, the House decided to refer a recommendation by its Legal Committee to cancel all regulations under which fees are levied and replace them by laws, in accordance with provisions of the Constitution to the High Council for the Improvement

## Iraq ban should be eased — Cheysson

BAGHDAD (R) — Former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, fresh from talks with President Saddam Hussein, said on Sunday he believed U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 should now be eased.

"I feel lifting or suspension of sanctions is in view," he said. "To isolate Iraq from the rest of the world represents a danger to peace. Humiliating Iraq gives a chance to fanatics in other parts of the world," he told a news conference.

He said Iraq was determined to abide by U.N. resolutions.

Also on Sunday, Iraq said it was discussing with France steps needed to bring about an easing or lifting of the crippling sanctions, which have cost it an estimated \$50 billion in lost oil revenue since.

Baghdad newspapers, quoting an Iraqi News Agency report from Paris, said Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Riyad al Qaisi was on a visit to France and had met senior French foreign ministry officials.

"The two sides agreed to continue work at the Security Council in line with a coordinated plan with specific steps," Mr. Qaisi said, without elaborating.

Mr. Cheysson, France's foreign minister from 1981-1985, said he was not in any official capacity in Iraq but had met French officials before coming to Baghdad and believed they would be interested in the outcome of his visit.

"It (visit) gave me the

chance to have confirmation of what I really knew and in particular the determination of the Iraqi authorities, the president and government to abide by the resolutions of the Security Council. It was confirmed to me and I have noted that with gratitude," said Mr. Cheysson, who met President Saddam on Saturday and had long discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz after his arrival on Friday.

He said he did not bring up a U.N. report last week which said Iraq is still hiding information on its past weapons programmes, failing to declare data on radar equipment or biological research until confronted with evidence.

Asked whether France's backing for an easing of the oil embargo was merely for economic interests, he said: "There is no shame in having economic interests in Iraq. You think Americans have no economic interest in Iraq?"

"I personally have always been against embargoes. I think an embargo adds suffering to sufferings of the population in particular the weakest part of the population, children, poor people and this at times takes a criminal nature," he said.

The Security Council is scheduled to hold its next periodic review of Iraq sanctions on Jan. 17 and diplomats said Iraq was hoping for a favourable hearing after its last month reorganised Kuwait within established by a U.N. commission.

## Weizman hopes to end 'cold peace' with Egypt

TEL AVIV (AFP) — President Ezer Weizman is due to start his first official visit to Egypt on Monday in a bid to warm up relations between the two countries which have remained frosty despite their 1979 peace accord.

Egypt was the first Arab country to end hostilities with the Jewish state but bilateral relations have remained at the level of a "cold peace."

Israel now believes the time has come to turn the page and breathe new life into their relations, following the significant steps taken towards peace in the Middle East, officials here said Sunday.

Mr. Weizman strongly supported the Camp David agreements in 1978 which paved the way for the peace treaty a year later. He visited Egypt 25 times before being elected president in 1993 and has close relations with several leading Egyptian politicians.

His three-day trip is scheduled to include a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak as well as talks with Prime Minister Arafat, Foreign Minister Amr Musa and other cabinet ministers.

The last visit to Egypt by an Israeli president was made by Yitzhak Navon in 1981, and no Egyptian head of state has returned the courtesy since former President Anwar Sadat's trip to occupied Jerusalem in 1977.

Mr. Mubarak may take the opportunity during his meeting with Mr. Weizman to announce the date of his first visit to Israel, Israeli television said.

"There will be a rapprochement in the wake of the accord signed between

Israel and the PLO on Sept. 13, 1993, and the peace treaty with Jordan on Oct. 26," a senior Israeli foreign ministry official said.

Israel had contented itself with the "cold peace" stalemate in order not to hamper Egypt's efforts to end its isolation in the Arab World which followed the 1979 treaty as Arab countries showed their anger by cutting off aid and severing political and economic ties.

But now the cold peace has no reason to exist, the official said.

Bilateral trade reached \$270 million in 1993, mainly due to sales of Egyptian oil products.

Israel in turn sells chemical, plastic and agricultural products to Egypt as well as machines.

According to the tourism ministry about 50,000 Israelis visit Egypt each year, and about 20,000 Egyptians will have been in Israel in 1994 compared with 5,000 the year before.

The increase is mainly explained by the lifting of some Egyptian administrative red-tape, and the planning adoption of a law against double taxation should also help boost relations.

Mr. Weizman will discuss cooperation in fighting terrorism, as well as closer links in telecommunications, tourism and culture, the head of his office, Arieh Shumer, said.

In the past weeks the Israeli press has criticised the "hostile attitude" of the main Egyptian media and the constant refusal by labour unions and professional groups to normalise ties with their Israeli counterparts.



TUNISIAN VICTORY: Players of Esperance of Tunisia hold aloft the cup after they beat 3-1 Zamalek of Egypt in the second leg of the Africans Champions Cup in Cairo on Saturday.

From left to right, president of the club Slim Chiboub, goalie Ouaer, captain Ben Naj and Mahjoub (AFP photo)

## Iran says it cannot be deprived of nuclear ability

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council said Sunday that Iran supports the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and cannot be deprived of using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

"The officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have repeatedly said that Iran does not seek nuclear and atomic weapons and has no wish to make a non-peaceful use of atomic energy," Hasan Ruhwani said.

"For this reason, the details of the NPT are very important to use and are closely linked to our national security and our country's growth and development," said Mr. Ruhwani, who is also deputy parliament speaker.

The United States claims that Iran, a signatory of the NPT, is engaged in a clandestine

drive to acquire nuclear weapons as part of a major arms buildup that will pose a threat to the region and beyond.

Iran has repeatedly denied that, saying its nascent nuclear programme is aimed at generating electricity to meet rapidly growing demand among its 60 million population and help revive its moribund economy.

Washington is pressing its allies to limit the sale of advanced technology, including equipment with military applications, to the Islamic republic.

Last year, Indian and the Czech Republic among other states, bowed to U.S. pressure not to sell nuclear technology to Tehran. But the Americans believe that Iran is seeking help from cash-strapped Russia.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director James

Woolsey said in September that Iran is "eight to 10 years away" from building nuclear weapons and that help from the outside will be critical in reaching that time table.

Mr. Ruhwani, addressing a Tehran seminar attended by civil officials, researchers, university students and lecturers, stressed: "The Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be deprived of the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the wishes of the USA."

The state-run television, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mr. Ruhwani as saying that due to the presence of U.S. warships with nuclear weapons in the Gulf region and the proximity of nuclear weapons in neighbouring countries — a reference to Israel and Pakistan — Iran had "more reason than most" to be worried about nuclear proliferation.

He called for strict adherence to the NPT by all countries and powers, the television said.

Russian experts are completing technical studies on completing a nuclear power plant at Bushehr, on Iran's northern Gulf coast, according to the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran.

The plant's two 1,200-megawatt reactors were partly built by a German firm before the 1979 revolution. Work was abandoned on the plant during the 1980-88 war with Iraq, when it was bombed several times.

China has said it will provide Iran with at least one 300-megawatt nuclear reactor.

Before the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was toppled in 1979, he had embarked on a plan to build 20 nuclear reactors for power generation.

## Scant hopes for Turkey's democratisation drive

ANKARA (R) — Ankara, under fire by Europe for jailing eight Kurdish deputies, promises a democratisation drive, but Turkish intellectuals say the government's promises are empty.

"A democratisation package exists as a kind of fantasy," Oral Calislar, a writer and journalist sentenced to jail for interviewing Kurdish guerrilla leaders, said at the weekend.

"But there is not the smallest chance — I see absolutely no proof at all — that democratisation will succeed. All the promises that (Prime Minister Tansu) Ciller has given to European leaders are to appease them," he added.

Turkey's restrictive legislation enabling arrests for expressing separatist opinions has made it unpopular with the West, to which it looks for economic integration into the European Union (EU).

The West slammed the deputies' recent sentences of up to 15 years in jail for separatism, and the issue has jeopardised Turkey's chances of sealing a customs union deal with the EU next week.

"We have to become more democratic," said Sabri Yavuz, head of the parliamentary human rights inquiry commission.

"Europe is pushing us into isolation, our relations are at breaking point because

democratisation has not taken place," said Mr. Yavuz, deputy for the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP).

The SHP, junior partners in the ruling coalition with Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP), was responsible for the 1991 birth of the so-called "democratisation package," which promises all kinds of freedom from union rights for civil servants to overhauling Turkey's military era constitution.

But despite SHP threats to pull out from the coalition if the package's passage is not sped up, only a couple of laws of the proposed 61 have been changed.

Rightists and Islamists have strongly challenged long-awaited changes to Turkey's notorious anti-terror law, under which Mr. Calislar, the deputies and hundreds of others were convicted.

"They talk of terror, but unless the government changes the 1980 military constitution, it is simply patching up bad laws," said an Istanbul lawyer, who declined to be named.

The constitution breaches international human rights rules.

But constitutional changes, much-discussed few months back, seem a long way off and many now believe the package has become a huge white elephant because of an



Tansu Ciller

obsessive focus on terror.

"All work has been devoted to the prevention of terrorism act, but the public has been given the impression a wide-ranging survey of the freedom of thought is taking place," Sibel Unlu, deputy head of Izmir Bar, has said in a joint statement with Ankara bar chief Erdal Merdol.

Turkey has been battling separatist Kurdish guerrillas for the past 10 years. It was hit by waves of leftist and religious attacks before that.

More than 13,000 people have been killed since the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) launched its bloody inde-

pendence campaign in the largely Kurdish southeast of the country in 1984.

Turkey's prevention of terrorism act was introduced in 1991 to replace wider legislation clamping down on left-wing and religious acts and propaganda against the state.

The proposed changes include a definition of terror that refers to a constitutional clause on the secular nature of the state and loyalty to its secular founder Kemal Ataturk.

Islamic circles say that will mean people can be put in jail simply for saying parts of the Koran are true.

"It may enable the release of some people imprisoned for thought crimes, while an important part of the population, that is devout Muslims, become liable to be jailed," said Nuh Gonultas, who writes for the Islamic daily Zaman.

Ms. Ciller this month visited leaders of Islamic sects to win them over, but media reports suggested they were unimpressed.

Islamists and secularists have also charged that the law is vague enough for judges to manipulate and condemn anyone whose ideas they do not like.

"So, although I am no terrorist, I have to pay attention to an anti-terror law," said Aleaddin Kaya, owner of Zaman.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Militants kill 'collaborator' in Egypt

MINIYA, Egypt (AFP) — Islamic militants shot dead a peasant they suspected of collaborating with the police and wounded his son in the Mallawi region of southern Egypt on Saturday, police said. The two gunmen from the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyya group struck at the man's home in the village of Tando, 300 kilometres south of Cairo. His son was seriously wounded as he tried to stop them escaping. Police recently found a hit list of 150 policemen and 150 "collaborators" drawn up by the militants, although it was not known if the dead man, Nashed Sadek, was among them. He was targeted for giving police information which had led to the arrest of Gamaa militants in the Mallawi region. A total of 534 people have died since fundamentalists launched their campaign against the government in March 1992.

### 800 couples marry in mass wedding in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Eight hundred cash-strapped couples got married Saturday in a mass wedding organised by an Iranian charity in seven towns including Tehran. The Ayatollah Khomeini Aid Committee, a charity set up after Iran's 1979 revolution to help poor families, organises several hundred weddings a year on religious holidays. In November the association organised the joint wedding of 2,500 couples in the same day. Joint marriages are cheaper than traditional ceremonies and have been held regularly in Iran since the revolution. A traditional ceremony costs at least five million rials (2,000 U.S. dollars), three to four times the average annual salary of a labourer or a low-ranking official. Dowries are an extra 10 million rials. Saturday was the anniversary of the birth of Ali, the son-in-law and successor to Mohammad and the first Shiite Muslim leader.

### U.N. to keep close watch on pyramids

BANGKOK (AFP) — The United Nations' World Heritage Committee will continue to "monitor closely" an Egyptian highway project to ensure that Cairo diverts the road from the Great Pyramids, a U.N. official said here Sunday. Richard Englehart, Bangkok director of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), said that the Egyptian authorities had assured the committee early Sunday that the pyramids would not be threatened. "They said that they had ordered the diversion of the project already," Mr. Englehart told AFP. "Of course, it will be part of our job to monitor it closely for the next year," he added. The highway project, discussed early Sunday, was the most sensitive item on the agenda of this year's gathering, held at the southern Thai resort island of Phuket. Last week, excavators discovered a tomb and artifacts along the road's path. By Thursday, President Hosni Mubarak announced that no measures would be taken on the motorway without his "personal approval." UNESCO has been openly critical of the project, while engineers have complained that a diversion would undercut the purpose of a highway.

### Kuwaiti jailed for "collaborating" with Iraq

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti police officer has been sentenced to life imprisonment for collaborating with Iraqi secret services during the 1990-1991 occupation of the emirate, legal officials told AFP Sunday. Khalid Sahar Al Khalidi, 40, was found guilty after a three-year trial before the state security court here, a court official said. Mr. Khalidi faced several charges including joining the Iraqi popular army, a militia active during the seven-month occupation, and taking regular wages from the Iraqis, the official added. He also criticised Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah in public, which is forbidden under the Kuwaiti constitution. The official said the defendant denied all charges, but more than 20 witnesses testified before the court that he was guilty.

### 2,500-year-old sin prevents marriage

TEL AVIV (AFP) — When Massoud Cohen fell in love with Chochana Hadad and asked for her hand in marriage, he had no idea one of her distant ancestors had committed a sin against Jewish law 2,500 years ago. But Israel's high rabbinic court remembered and has prevented the couple from marrying for 10 years, the Yediot Aharonot daily reported Sunday. In 580 B.C. Chochana's erring relative, known as a "Cohen" or priest in Hebrew, left the promised land to live on the island of Djerba in Tunisia. He married a divorcee, so breaking a Jewish law on priests which was then in turn imposed on all his descendants. As a result the rabbinic in Galilee in northern Israel has ruled that Chochana, a spinster, cannot marry 43-year-old Massoud because he is divorced. The couple has tried to find more forgiving rabbis to marry them but to no avail. The high rabbinic has told them their relationship can never be recognised in law and that their child born a short time ago will remain illegitimate.

### Sudan calls for help over refugee crisis

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A senior Sudanese official called Sunday on Arab and Islamic countries to help feed more than one million refugees who are overburdening the country's weak economy. Commissioner for Refugees Ihsan Al Ghabshawi told the opening session of a three-day national conference on refugees here that Sudan desperately needed help from abroad to meet the refugees' needs in the light of cuts in international aid. Ms. Ghabshawi said most of the refugees were from Muslim countries, and that Arab and Islamic countries that had failed to provide Sudan with aid over the last three decades should play a role in easing the crisis. "We appeal to the Arab League (and) the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to give more attention to the plight of refugees in the Sudan," she told the conference. According to the country's commission for refugees, Sudan is currently home to 1,042,630 refugees, more than three quarters of whom are from Ethiopia and Eritrea.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:00 ..... Pollards  
17:30 ..... Un Pour Tous  
18:00 ..... Les Invention De La Vie  
18:30 ..... Les Interpelles  
19:00 ..... Les Invention De La Vie  
19:15 ..... Magazine Sport  
19:30 ..... Black Beauty  
20:00 ..... Boogies Direct  
20:30 ..... Quantum Leap  
21:00 ..... Shades of L.A.  
21:30 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Grushko

### PRAYER TIMES

05:02 ..... Fajr  
(6:25) ..... (Sunrise) Daba  
11:32 ..... Dhur  
14:16 ..... 'Asr  
16:39 ..... Maghrib  
18:02 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweithel, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.  
632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
677440.

Terrace Church Tel: 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.  
628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.  
772661.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel.  
625256.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.  
624328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Church  
Tel. 684195  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church in  
Tel. 811295

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will drop with heavy rain expected in all regions and snow over heights exceeding an altitude of 1,000 metres. Winds will be westerly strong. In Agaba, skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers. Winds will be westerly active and seas rough.  
Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 3/6

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts ..... 2/9  
Jordan Valley ..... 7/12

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 9, Aqaba 19 Humidity  
readings: Amman 84 per cent.  
Aqaba 44 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**  
**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:  
Dr. Rami Mawri ..... 794788  
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali ..... 707140  
Dr. Mukhlis Mazharah ..... 620425  
Dr. Khalil Al Tashuq ..... 737253  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 782336  
Al Azma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairoby pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Simchani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairoby pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

ZARQA:  
Dr. Abdul Karim Khassabneh ..... 983023  
Khalil pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 751211  
Highway Police ..... 643402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 60321  
Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 60321  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdallah Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6  
Akshik Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Mahas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
The Islamic, Abdah ..... 644127/27  
Al-Ahli, Shamsan ..... 664171/4  
Shamsan Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Mushar Hospital ..... 66727/9  
The Islamic, Abdah ..... 644127/27  
Al-Ahli, Abdah ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26  
Army, Marfa ..... 89161/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602409/9  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 674155  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)900560  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)986732  
EBRD:  
Prince Saana Hospital ..... (02)75535  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)75275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)14111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**  
07:20 ..... Sanas (RJ)  
08:25 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:55 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:10 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
12:50 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
13:05 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
13:05 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
15:05 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:45 ..... Khartoum (SD)  
09:35 ..... Cairo (EG)  
12:35 ..... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
14:00 ..... Hudaydah (YU)  
14:30 ..... Kiev (UK)  
17:05 ..... Rome (AZ)  
17:50 ..... Paris (AF)  
18:15 ..... Dubai (EK)  
22:10 ..... London (BA)  
01:10 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

### DEPARTURES

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**  
05:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
08:45 ..... Amsterdam, Cairo (RJ)  
10:45 ..... London (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Istanbul, Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:50 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
12:55 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
19:45 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
21:25 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
05:45 ..... Khartoum (SD)  
06:00 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
06:15 ..... Beirut (MF)  
10:30 ..... Cairo (MS)  
13:30 ..... Riyadh  
16:00 ..... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)  
16:00 ..... Khartoum (SD)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper lower price in ffs per kg

Apple ..... 700/700  
Banana ..... 600/600  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 600  
Cabbage ..... 100/100  
Carrot ..... 200/100  
Cauliflower ..... 450/300  
Cherry tomato ..... 300/300  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 400/300  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 300/300  
Eggplant ..... 300/300  
Garlic ..... 100/100  
Grape Fruit ..... 200/200  
Lemon ..... 200/200  
Marrow (large) ..... 300/300  
Marrow (small) ..... 300/300  
Onion (green) ..... 300/300  
Onion (red) ..... 300/300  
Orange ..... 400/300  
Pepper (hot) ..... 300/300  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 300/300  
Potato ..... 300/300  
Radish ..... 300/300  
Spinach ..... 300/300  
Spring Beans ..... 300/300



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday views a display of home furnishings at the new headquarters of the Jordan River Designs Project. To the Queen's left is Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda (Petra photo)

## Queen inaugurates headquarters of Jordan River Designs Project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inaugurated the new headquarters and showroom for the Jordan River Designs Project, which provides training and jobs to underprivileged women in Al-Mahatta and Al-Natfiya suburbs of Amman, a Royal Court statement said.

Queen Noor invited Save the Children to Jordan to provide technical assistance and training to the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation's, NHF, National Handicrafts Project. Since then, both Bani Hamida Weaving Project and Jordan River Designs have become independent.

The Queen supports their activities and promotes their products nationally and internationally.

NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) cooperated in the past with Jordan River Designs in product development and export marketing and currently markets their products in JDTC tourist shops in Petra, the statement said.

Established in 1987, the Jordan River Designs Project gives needy women skills to revive traditional Jordanian handicrafts while providing them with income to raise their standard of living.

Geared towards self-reliance and grass roots participation, the project provides these women with interest-free loans to set up small projects and market their own products.

New showroom, said the statement, is a stone house built in 1936, which was restored by architect Ammar Khammash in its traditional style and spirit.

Queen Noor toured the showroom and viewed the products which include bed covers, pillows, olive oil soap, leather bags and traditional dolls, the statement said.

Hamida House' and viewed its autumn collection, it said. Queen Noor was received by Mark Edington, Save the Children Middle East Area Director and Jordan Field Office Director and Hana Shahin, Jordan River Designs Project manager.

Also present at the event were Ambassador of Japan Yuji Ikeda, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Director William F. Oliver, Senator Leila Sharaf and local businesspersons.

The renovation was financed with an allocation of U.S. \$39,896 from the government of Japan within the framework of the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GAGP), a Japanese embassy statement said Sunday.

According to the USAID spokesperson, the agency has over the past five years granted the Jordan River Designs Project a total of \$355,000.

## Crown Prince calls for focus on equity, integration and health for all

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Selectivity, political correctness and empty words should be avoided in preference to equity, integration and health for all, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday.

"If we continue with selectivity... we will not address the problems. I suggest that we look at what the matrix of international issues will look like next year, the 50th anniversary (of the United Nations)," Prince Hassan said at a meeting of World Health Organisation (WHO) task force members held as part of a three-day conference entitled "Health in Development Issues."

The Crown Prince urged the task force, of which he is a member, not to fall into the ranks of other convening groups as idea originators only.

At the end of 1994, the Crown Prince said, he felt that the importance of health had not been discovered and that throughout 1995 a different approach should be adopted.

Equity, integration and health are part of the agenda of WHO task force's bi-annual meeting here.

"A theme of man against man and against nature is one way of addressing the 50th anniversary," he said.

Prince Hassan also said that the occasion of the anniversary should provide an opportunity to "look at the 50th year as a year in which we will pull together... and address issues of ethics of human solidarity, global issues, forces of change, violence, vulnerable groups, man-made disasters," among others.

With regard to equity among the region's peoples, Prince Hassan said that by the year 2010, 130 million Arabs will enjoy the purchasing power of seven million Israelis.

"I wonder if we are effectively talking of a situation where we are predicting inequity," he said, indicating a need for action to stem future incrementation of income disparities.

Prince Hassan suggested the formation of a regional council to serve as a powerful lobby with an agenda and not a "wish list."

He also voiced criticism of the Casablanca OIC summit (Dec. 12-14) saying: "50 countries produced 50 resolutions, and I had hoped for one resolution."

In reply, task force chairman and former Barbados Foreign Minister Brandford Tait said that the task force would "take His Highness' words to heart" and veer away from "doing business as usual."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday addresses members of the World Health Organisation task force meeting in Amman (Petra photo)

He reaffirmed the task force's dedication to the centrality of health, but added that its definition of health had altered.

"We are moving away from the clinical definition of health towards the political, social, economic and development aspects of it," Mr. Tait said.

He added that the task force was centering its activities around the human being, and he agreed with Prince

Hassan on the need to follow up methodology which, he said, was sometimes a slow process, but "if the methodology was right, then the result would be right."

Mr. Tait said that the Kingdom had been chosen for this meeting because "Jordan has taken a lead role in focusing on the human condition."

The conference, held

under the patronage of Crown Prince Hassan, has been attended by political leaders, development experts and economists from around the world who discussed ways to ensure that health is recognised as an indispensable component of development policies and that the centrality of health in social development is given due emphasis at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

## Premier receives outgoing Pakistani envoy, new Norwegian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday received at his office Pakistani Ambassador Tariq Khan Afridi who paid a courtesy visit upon the occasion of his end of his tour of duty in the Kingdom.

Dr. Majali expressed Jordan's appreciation to Mr. Afridi for his efforts throughout his five-year tenure here in helping to advance relations between Jordan and

Pakistan. Ambassador Afridi leaves the Kingdom for his new post as Pakistan's envoy to Portugal.

Also Sunday, Dr. Majali received Tove Kijewski, Norway's newly-appointed ambassador to Jordan, and reviewed with her bilateral relations and other issues of mutual concern.

Mr. Kijewski, who

assumed her post here in September, was most recently second-in-charge of the Norwegian embassy in Bonn, Germany. Her previous postings in the Arab World include Egypt and Kuwait.

The prime minister also met in his office with Sadek Ben Juma, member of the central committee of the ruling party in Tunisia to discuss bilateral ties.

## Parliament speakers meet with Cuban minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Speakers Ahmad Al-Lawzi and Saad Hayel Srou Sunday separately received Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Gonzales and his accompanying delegation who are here on a several-day visit to Jordan.

Mr. Lawzi briefed Mr. Gonzales on His Majesty King Hussein's role in establishing peace in the Middle East and serving humanitarian, political and economic causes around the world.

He also stressed Jordan's stands and endeavours to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the

region. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations in parliamentary fields, underlining the need to enhance cooperation in economic and trade fields.

Mr. Lawzi also reviewed Jordan's democratisation process and the role of the legislative authority in supporting it. He outlined the mechanisms of work at the Parliament, the election process and strides in securing political pluralism.

At the meeting with the House speaker, discussion centred on economic and commercial ties by enhancing the role of the private sector in both Cuba and Jordan.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday receives visiting Malaysian Minister of Higher Education Suleiman Daoud. Also attending the meeting was Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud (Petra photo)

## Majali, visiting Malaysian minister discuss higher education exchanges

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Malaysian Minister of Higher Education Suleiman Daoud Sunday began a five-day visit to Jordan by calling on Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to discuss scopes of cooperation in higher education sectors.

Dr. Majali said Jordan is keen to launch close cooperation between Malaysian and Jordanian universities and research centres.

Dr. Daoud will review with Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud, who also attended Sunday's meet-

ing, cultural, scientific and academic exchanges. He will also visit the Kingdom's state universities and archaeological sites.

In a statement upon his arrival here at the head of an official delegation, Dr. Daoud said that he would discuss exchange of university faculty, researchers and scientists to promote higher education and enrich cultural cooperation. He said he will also discuss the equivalence of degrees awarded by the universities of either country

and facilities for enabling students from Malaysia and Jordan to enroll at universities in the two countries.

Dr. Saoud told reporters that discussion will cover cultural exchanges noting that nearly 1100 Malaysian students are currently enrolled at Jordanian universities.

The minister said that Dr. Daoud will visit the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Muta University and Al al Bayt University where Malaysian students are currently enrolled.

## Jordan observes Arab Police Day

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab Police Day was celebrated in Jordan Sunday with a major ceremony attended by Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Udwan.

At the PSD Officers Club Lt. Gen. Udwan distributed merit certificates to retired PSD officers, journalists, families of martyrs and citizens who have helped the police solve crimes this past year.

The PSD director also distributed trophies to leaders of police units who scored highest in the annual inspection procedures and decorated several officers with medals

in recognition of their distinguished efforts in the line of duty.

Major General Hashem Qaisi addressed the gathering and outlined the development of the security force, noting the great achievements of the police force since the 1920s.

According to Maj. Gen. Qaisi, "peace in the region will enhance development and stability in the Kingdom."

He also said the crime rate in Jordan is considered low. "Crime is a shadow that threatens every citizen in our society, but we are confident with our system we can protect people and secure their safety," he added.

Major General Sami

Saket, a retired PSD officer, delivered a speech on behalf of the pensioned officers, saying that the rapid advancement of the society and the critical stage the Kingdom now faces requires that the country's security systems "cope and adjust to these changes."

According to Colonel Mahmoud Obeidat, director of public relations at the PSD, the celebration was a good opportunity "to look back at what we have accomplished and to look for ways to improve our police work to serve our community."

Col. Obeidat also said that this is the day to remember the people who have dedicated their lives in working for the police force.

## France initials JD 12m loan-grant protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — France has initialled a protocol granting Jordan a total of 96 million francs (JD 12,212,800) of which about JD one million will be in the form of a grant.

According to Nabil Ammari, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning who led a Jordanian team to negotiate the aid and the loan, the rest of the sum will be paid over 20 years with a 10-year repayment grace period.

Dr. Ammari, who was speaking Sunday following his return from France, said he negotiated the aid with the French Ministry of Economy

and reached an initial agreement.

The sum assigned for loan will be used to finance water, telecommunications, civil aviation and other development schemes in Jordan and the grant will be used primarily to finance studies related to the development of the water and irrigation sectors in the Kingdom, according to Dr. Ammari.

French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajelet told the Jordan Times Sunday that the loan bears a one per cent interest and the total sum could be available to Jordan as soon as formal contracts in this connection have been signed.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FRANCO-ARAB CINEMA FESTIVAL

★ Film entitled "The Extras" (Syria 1993) at Cinema Concorde at 8:30 p.m.

#### FILMS

★ Film in French entitled "Sans Toit Ni Loi" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

★ Film (in English) entitled "15th Century: Renaissance in Full Bloom" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Fann at 5:30 p.m.

#### CHOIR

★ Choir by the Baptist community at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

#### LECTURE

★ Lecture entitled "Preliminary Results of the Polla Haterland Survey" by Dr. Pamela Watson at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

#### CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

★ Bani Hamida Christmas Display with a variety of small gift items at Bani Hamida House, Jabel Amman, First Circle, Rainbow Street.

#### EXHIBITIONS

★ Plastic art exhibition by Laiba Kawash at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings on leather by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabab at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

★ Painting and water colours exhibition by Suhail Ma'touq at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Ammar Khammash and Fasad Mimi at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

CREATE YOUR OWN

# Italian Nights

Every Tuesday night!

Spoil yourself with an evening full of Italian romance. Truly bonissima is the pasta cooked live in front of you, the way you requested. Be your own chef and create your unique Pizza. Our sumptuous buffet has the freshest ingredients specially flown in from Italy. So, put your creativity in full gear and carry your taste buds to Italy.

**Arrivederci**

HOTEL  
INTER-CONTINENTAL  
JORDAN

For reservations call 641361, ext. 2222

**okaz RESTAURANT**

Ingredients list

- Tell us
- Pasta
- Meat
- Vegetables
- Spices
- Herbs
- Wine
- Oil
- Salt
- Pepper
- Onion
- Garlic
- Tomato
- Cheese
- Eggs
- Butter
- Flour
- Sugar
- Honey
- Maple

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# Turino

**Year End Program Restaurants**

**Xmas Eve. Xmas Lunch.**  
Gala Dinner Buffet Lunch

**New Year's Eve Dinner.**  
Gala Dinner

**To**

**Turino**

Voted as best picture for year end!

**As time goes by - 1994 is over.**

**Turn To Better Times ... Turn To Turino!**

Singers, Pop Music, Bands, CD, i. Teque etc

**Best Wishes For The New Year**

Reservation For Dinner & Lunch: 863944 - 816690 - Sweifiyeh

## ANC weaknesses under spotlight

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (AFP) — Serious problems in the ruling African National Congress could hamper its ability to govern effectively, a report released at the ANC's three-yearly conference here Sunday says.

The hard-hitting report, by ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa, says the party lacks decisive leadership, has a grave shortage of funds and is out of touch with its grassroots supporters.

Among the problems is the "continual reliance" on ANC President Nelson Mandela to do the organising.

The report was to be debated behind closed doors Sunday by some 2,700 delegates to the conference, the ANC's 49th since it was formed in this Orange Free State provincial capital in 1912.

The meeting also marks the first ANC thinktank since

it swept to power in historic all-race elections in April.

"Despite our immense success in the election, we have serious shortcomings at many levels," Mr. Ramaphosa says in the report.

He says ANC leaders are indecisive, fail to respond promptly to crises and are reluctant to enforce discipline.

Senior officials are overloaded with work, he adds, while the ANC's affirmative action policy relating to women has failed.

"There is an over-reliance on a few key women leaders," Mr. Ramaphosa says.

The problem has been exacerbated by key ANC members moving into government positions.

In his opening address to the conference Saturday, Mr. Mandela was sharply critical of ANC organisation and finances.

"Ours was not a planned entry into government," Mr. Mandela said. "We were disorganised and behaved in a manner that could have endangered the revolution."

He said the party's financial state was a "matter of serious concern" and called for the elimination of wastage and an end to the "lack of financial discipline."

Mr. Ramaphosa's report emboldened on the theme, bemoaning the poor state of organisation in branches and regions and complaining of fiscal indiscretions.

It says sources of finance have dried up since the election and that the ANC Youth and Women's Leagues "do not adhere to financial controls."

"Unless we address these problems, we will continue sliding into the low morale in which some of our militants are," he says, referring to disillusioned ANC soldiers

who have deserted the South African National Defence Force in Doves.

Unless branches are re-suscitated and problems tackled, Mr. Ramaphosa adds, the ANC will battle to win municipal elections due at the end of 1995.

According to delegates, Mr. Ramaphosa received thunderous applause when he presented the report.

The conference is expected to spend Sunday debating the report before tackling 10 other items on the agenda, including the preparation of South Africa's final constitution, the economy, the rampant crime ravaging the country and the role of women.

During the four-day conference, which has as its theme "From Resistance to Reconstruction and National Building," the ANC will also renew its 50-member Executive Committee.

## Clinton may not have been target of shots

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. officials said Saturday that the bullets found on the White House grounds after gunfire erupted near the mansion may not have been aimed at President Bill Clinton.

Up to six shots, most likely from a semi-automatic handgun, were fired from the nearby Ellipse, a grassy field across the street from the rear of the White House, in the pre-dawn hours Saturday, according to law enforcement officials.

Two spent 9mm bullets, one of which was found on the first-floor balcony and the other on a driveway, were later recovered.

Secret Service spokesman Carl Meyer said the bullets were found in good shape, indicating they had travelled some distance and not hit anything.

Law enforcement officials said four spent 9mm bullets, believed to have been fired from the same weapon, were recovered in good condition, indicating to investigators that they had travelled a long distance.

One round landed on the first-floor balcony of the White House, one floor below the family living quarters, and another was found on the South Lawn driveway, said Secret Service spokes-



Two uniformed U.S. Secret Service agents search the grounds behind the White House with metal detectors for evidence after shots were fired at the White House. Witnesses reported hearing four to six shots fired from the Ellipse and one bullet was found on the grounds near the South Portico (AFP photo)

man Dave Adams.

The Washington Post, quoting unidentified sources, said another penetrated a window of the state dining room on the first floor.

Vice President Al Gore said it could well be that the shots were not directed at Mr. Clinton or his family, who were asleep in the White House at the time.

"I received a briefing that indicated a distinct possibility that it was not in any way related to the president," Mr. Gore told reporters in Atlanta.

"We are exploring the possibility that this was just a couple of stray bullets that came in," Mr. Meyer said earlier in the day when only two bullets had been found. Washington has a reputation as a violent city.

The incident raised new serious concerns about the level of safety at the White House.

## Claudia Schiffer wants to jog with Clinton

RONN (R) — German supermodel Claudia Schiffer wants to go jogging with U.S. President Bill Clinton, market movie star Paul Newman's barbecue sauce and stroll through an art gallery with gun-swinging action hero Sylvester Stallone.

Laying out her plans for a German television chat show she is due to start hosting in the spring, Schiffer said in an interview that she would not bore viewers with ordinary question and answer sessions.

"Instead of having an ordinary interview with Paul Newman, I would cook with him," she told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* daily. "Or I would ask Bill Clinton questions while we jog. Sylvester Stallone is very interested in art, so I could browse through an art gallery with him."

Schiffer, whose modelling career began at 17, said she was more interested in the men behind the faces than in their work. "I'm no political expert," she said when asked what sort of questions she would ask the American president. "I might talk to him (Clinton), for example, about the health insurance system. I would ask Sylvester Stallone what his favourite movies are. I might ask Paul Newman to reveal his recipe to German viewers who don't know his barbecue sauce. The super model, said to earn thousands of dollars a day and who speaks fluent French and English in addition to her native German, said the secret of her success was not her stunning good looks. "Beauty alone won't take you to the top of modelling, just as little as it can take you to the top of the list of Hollywood stars," she said. "Professionalism, discipline and a lot of energy are also needed."

## Time chooses Pope as Man of the Year

NEW YORK (R) — Time magazine has announced it had selected Pope John Paul II as its Man of the Year saying he had "forcefully set forth his vision of the good life and urged the world to follow it."

The publication said he had pursued his vision in a year when many lamented a decline in moral values and used the influence of his office to speak out and further his aims.

"For such rectitude — or recklessness as his detractors would have it — he is Time magazine's 1994 Man of the Year."

Few of his predecessors over the past 2,000 years have spoken from it as often and as forcefully as he," the

magazine said.

In his effort to cast his message wider Time noted that he had this year published his meditations *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*.

Time cited as an example of the pontiff's ability to impose his will the defeat of a U.S. backed proposition at the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo last September.

Because the Pope feared the measure would encourage abortions the Vatican successfully intervened to defeat it, the magazine said.

It said critics are predicting catastrophic consequences for the world's population as a result but noted "the Pon-

tiff was unfazed by the widespread opprobrium."

Pursuing his goal of clarifying his church's doctrine Time said the Pope had seen the Vatican issue "catechism of the Catholic Church."

It called the catechism "the first such comprehensive document issued since the 16th century, and perhaps the most enduring landmark of John Paul's papacy."

Time editors have selected a Man of the Year since 1927 when it picked Charles A. Lindbergh. Despite the title the magazine has sometimes selected women and last year it selected four "peace-makers", F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin.

## Thai king endorses cabinet reshuffle

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai secured a political victory Sunday with the official announcement that monarch King Bhumibol Adulyadej had endorsed a cabinet reshuffle that guarantees him a majority in parliament.

The endorsement, which state television said took place Saturday, made official the eleventh-hour compromise between Mr. Chuan's administration and the Chart Pattana Party, previously the second-largest member of the opposition.

Under the new cabinet list, the government retains 201 seats in the House, out of a total of 360.

The Chart Pattana inherits 14 cabinet seats, replacing the New Aspiration Party (NAP) which split from the coalition.

There were no deviations from the proposed reshuffle list, in which the Democrats shifted four of their own seats.

As expected, Sanan Kachornprasart, the secretary-general of Mr. Chuan's Democrat Party, received the powerful interior minister post, replacing Chaovalit Yongchaiyudh.

Mr. Chaovalit, the leader of the NAP, challenged — and helped defeat — a government vote on Dec. 8 on constitutional amendments which would have limited his authority over local officials.

He defected to the opposition the next day, leading most analysts to predict Mr. Chuan would dissolve parliament and call for snap elections.

But Mr. Chuan's Democrats managed a last-minute compromise with the Chart Pattana Party in what political observers called a marriage of convenience.

Part of the agreement included the Agriculture Ministry, which the Democrats gave up in order to take over the Interior Ministry.

## Beijing urges British cooperation on Hong Kong pact's anniversary

BEIJING (AFP) — China urged Britain Sunday to set aside disputes and cooperate on Hong Kong's future ahead of the 10th anniversary of an historic pact governing the prosperous colony's return to Chinese rule in 1997.

The officials also reiterated vows to uphold the "one country, two systems" principle allowing Hong Kong to retain its free-wheeling capitalist economy, despite bitter rows with London over democratic reforms and other issues.

Vice Premier Qian Qichen, in a speech commemorating the Joint Declaration of Dec. 19, 1984, said "it is my sincere hope that the two countries will reduce their conflicts, increase mutual trust and enhance cooperation."

"I believe that China and Britain will be able to cooperate on this fundamental issue. But that does not mean that there will be no conflicts or

problems," said Mr. Qian, who is also foreign minister.

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted him as saying that Sino-British cooperation was an "important factor" for a smooth transition "but the most important thing is to rely on our own forces."

The Joint Declaration guarantees continuity in Hong Kong for another 50 years under the so-called Special Administrative Region (SAR).

But efforts by Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten to introduce democratic reforms to the colony before 1997 have inflamed Beijing, leading to the rupture of negotiations on the future of Hong Kong.

China has since announced that all political structures in the colony will be dismantled after the handover, and unilaterally created a committee charged with installing the future Hong Kong administration.

Lu Ping, Beijing's highest official in charge of Hong Kong and Macau, a Portuguese colony reverting to Chinese rule in 1999, said that the "one country, two systems" idea was "China's long-term state policy," not an expedient measure.

He criticised London for departing from the spirit of the Joint Declaration. Xinhua said, but welcomed its pledges of cooperation.

Disputes over Hong Kong's new airport and other infrastructure projects spanning the handover have also soured ties between Beijing and London.

The 31st meeting of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group (JLIG) ended in London Friday with British efforts to gain China's approval of contracts for a huge container terminal looking hopelessly stalled.

## Rwanda slows plan to close camps

KIGALI (R) — The Rwandan government appears to have accepted U.N. pressure to delay its plans to close all refugee camps in the southwest of the country by the end of December.

This follows a large-scale operation by the United Nations last week to search two of the camps to round up militants who have been terrorising the refugees there.

The operation produced few results, apparently because the militants had fled before the U.N. sweep began.

The United Nations' special representative in Rwanda, Ambassador Shaharyar Khan, said in Kigali Sunday the government would no longer insist on the closure of the camps by the end of the year. Instead they had agreed to a two-month programme, as proposed by the United Nations.

Mr. Khan told Reuters last week's operation aimed to halt an increase in violence in the camps, which had been in danger of falling into the pattern of refugee camps around Goma, in neighbouring Zaire, where extremists rule through terror.

He said the aim had not been to persuade the government to delay what the United Nations regarded as a hurried closure plan.

But he welcomed the Rwandan government's acceptance of Operation Retour — the United Nations' gradual closure programme.

The government had said it wanted to close down the camps by the end of the year to end a growing security problem.

The camps were set up in May and June to provide

shelter for fleeing Hutus as the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) stepped up its military campaign against the Hutu-led government following genocide killings of Tutsis in April.

Hundreds of thousands took shelter in a safe zone established by French troops. Despite the subsequent withdrawal of the French force, most of the Hutus stayed in the camps, fearing RPF vengeance for the slaughter of Tutsis and moderate Hutus that followed the assassination of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana.

The forced closure of other camps in the former safe zone had drawn international criticism. Mr. Khan said the government realised it should not risk attracting more opprobrium from a world still suspicious of the new rulers.

Over 1,500 U.N. peacekeepers marched into Kibeho and Ndago early last Wednesday hoping to seize thugs terrorising the estimated 140,000 inhabitants.

A day-long search netted 47 suspects — four were later released through lack of evidence — and more than 1,300 weapons, mainly machetes and other blades, a poor haul for such a large operation.

None of the grenades and small arms sighted earlier in the camp were seized, and the United Nations admits the militant ringleaders had bolted before the peacekeepers went in.

"The operation was too big to have the benefit of surprise," Mr. Khan told Reuters. "If we do another sweep it should be on a smaller scale to maintain the element of surprise."

"But even if the gang lead-

ers got away, the camps are now free of their influence. If they go to other camps then we will clear them out."

Meanwhile, a batch of 120 Japanese soldiers returned home Sunday after a three-month humanitarian mission in Rwanda. Japan's first military-supported aid operation under national command since World War II.

Another contingent of 140 troops are due to leave the Zairean town of Goma — where they have assisted Rwandan refugees — Tuesday and will arrive in Japan Friday officials here said.

Their mission had been defined as strictly humanitarian, mainly providing support for a vaccination programme and water supply, as Japan's post-World War II constitution bans the use of force in settling international conflicts.

Japan previously sent military personnel to Cambodia and Mozambique, but both operations were under the auspices of the United Nations.

The 260 Japanese troops, who had little overseas experience, completed their mission amid fears of contagious diseases and security problems as well as the possibility of volcanic eruptions.

"I feel relieved after coming back safe and sound," 38-year-old medic Norio Fukuda told reporters after the 120-strong team arrived at Tokyo's Narita International Airport on a commercial flight.

"I was shocked to see a boy, who looked as old as my own son, carrying his young brother on his back," he said.

## Rao warns of purge in ruling party

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has warned of a purge to revitalise the ruling Congress Party, reeling under election losses inflicted by corruption charges, disaffection and infighting, news reports said Sunday.

"Those opportunists who want to use the Congress as a puppet to further their interests should quit the party," the *United News of India* (UNI) quoted Mr. Rao as telling party workers Saturday at Pune in the western state of Maharashtra.

"The rot has to go and it will purify the Congress," the news agency quoted him as saying.

Maharashtra is one of the five states scheduled to vote in February. The Congress Party lost in three of the four states that elected new assemblies this month.

Mr. Rao, whose party lost crucial elections in the southern states of Karnataka and his native Andhra Pradesh, called upon party workers to learn from the defeat and criticised senior aides for their negative attitude.

Factional fighting and sabotage in the Congress have been cited widely as a major reason for the southern debacle.

Congress deputies say Mr. Rao is waiting for the end of the current parliament session later this week before beginning a purge because parliamentary custom demands that reshuffles are not made when a session is on.

"In Delhi, even some of those who sit beside us indulge in criticism out of considerations of a personal nature," the daily *Pioneer* quoted Mr. Rao as saying at Baramati in Maharashtra.

His statement came after Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh, widely believed to be a challenger to Mr. Rao, and senior party leader Narain Dutt Tiwari, called for more populist, poor-oriented policies.

The regional Telugu Desam Party (TDP) won in Andhra Pradesh by promising subsidised rice.

Mr. Rao, who launched a radical, free-market-oriented economic reform programme in 1991, says he will not do anything that will threaten the country's finances and fiscal stability.

The opposition says the reforms are elitist. Party dissidents echo the feelings.

Some 22 junior ministers offered to quit this week to give Mr. Rao, who also heads the party, a free hand for a clean-up.

"Unless responsibility is fixed and heads roll, the credibility of the government and the democratic system is at stake," Chandrajit Yadav of the Socialist Samta Party told Reuters.

Mr. Rao is being embarrassed by his Food Minister Kalp Nath Rai after an investigation report blamed Mr. Rai and government agencies last week for mismanaging

the nation's sugar buffer, resulting in a rise in home and world prices.

Mr. Rao swears loyalty and has offered to quit but simultaneously says he is innocent and will defend himself.

Two other aides, Health Minister B. Shankaranand and Junior Rural Development Minister Rameshwar Thakur, received critical remarks from a parliamentary committee that probed a \$1.2-billion securities scandal that surfaced in 1992.

The opposition has been baying for their heads, and that of Mr. Rai.

Civil Supplies Minister A.K. Antony resigned last week after a parliamentary statement identified him as having erred in the management of sugar prices.

His resignation has not been accepted officially, but Mr. Rao has been hinting that others follow suit.

Mr. Rao has often been accused of soft-peddling political issues within the party and outside, even as he unleashed radical economic changes.

"I have told him many times: 'You must do things which are seen to be good,' a party lawmaker, who declined to be named, told Reuters. 'He has always been indecisive.'"

February's election will mean another acid test for Mr. Rao. The next general election, scheduled for early 1996, would only be a year away from then.

## Italy's top graft-buster ties the knot

CURNO, Italy (R) — Antonio Di Pietro, the magistrate turned folk hero for his probes that helped topple Italy's old ruling class, has got married, Italian newspapers said Saturday. Di Pietro, 44, who resigned on Dec. 6 following tensions between his "clean hands" team of magistrates and the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, married Susanna Mazzoleni in a private ceremony, the paper said. The magistrate and Ms. Mazzoleni, 41, a lawyer, were married at their villa in the town of Curno, outside Milan. The two have been together for ten years and have two children Anna, 8, and Antonio, 3.

## Dwarfs refuse to kiss Snow White

LONDON (R) — Two bashful dwarfs in a traditional British Christmas show have refused to kiss Snow White, forcing the director to rewrite the script. Two six-year-old boys playing dwarfs in a production of *Snow White* at a theatre in South Shields, in northeast England, refused point blank to kiss the 20-year-old star, Victoria Arbre. "I didn't realise the prospect of giving me a peck would horrify them so much," she told reporters.

"When they were told to kiss me, their little faces crumpled and they burst into tears." Producer John Blackman said. "The dwarfs say they are lads and lads don't kiss ladies." Productions of *Snow White*, a traditional favourite in the British pantomime (Christmas Entertainment) season have been hit this year by a shortage of adult dwarfs.

## 300 passengers have to miss out on QE2 cruise

LONDON (R) — Three hundred passengers will miss out on a cruise on the luxury British liner QE2 because their cabins were not finished in time after a £3 million (\$4.69 million) refurbishment. Owner Cunard blamed British sub-contractors for the problems.

Spokesman Eric Flounders said: "We found that some of the cabins were in an unsatisfactory condition. Clearly, there will be a lot of disappointment and we will do our best to redress it," he told reporters.

Cunard told 300 passengers they could not join the trip to New York as about 100 of the QE2's cabins were not ready. Workmen will now stay on board the 27-year liner and finish the work as the QE2 cruises that Atlantic to New York.

## Clinton ends bad year but worst may be ahead

WASHINGTON (R) — At the halfway mark of his turbulent first term as America's president, Bill Clinton is on the political brink, list because of official bungling, slumping polls and the Republican takeover of Congress.

But many analysts agree with democratic representative Pat Schroeder's brutally frank assessment of Mr. Clinton's prospects. "I don't think I would declare him dead just yet," she said in a recent interview on the cable channel CNBC.

Indeed, Mr. Clinton has already launched an effort to bounce back from the terrible year he had in 1994 with his call for \$60 billion in tax relief for the country's vast middle class.

He has also announced a \$25 billion increase in Pentagon spending and banned funding for fertility research on embryos created for research purposes to head off conservative criticism.

These initiatives came near the close of a year from hell that saw Mr. Clinton chalk up only two significant legislative accomplishments — passage of a crime bill and a measure to implement the new GATT world trade agreement.

They hardly sufficed to hide his embarrassments, which included the collapse

of his top priority push for health care reform and the Republican rampage in the Nov. 8 elections.

In what amounted to a vote of no confidence in Democrat Clinton, who campaigned strenuously for a different outcome, Americans gave Republicans control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years.

They also put most governors' offices in Republican hands, a potentially lethal blow to Mr. Clinton's reelection chances because it will deny him a lot of ready-made political organisation for his expected bid for a second term.

So what went so badly wrong with a presidency that began with such bright promise in 1993? And what are Mr. Clinton's prospects for recovery?

"He forgot the nature of the '92 election. The first thing he forgot was that he won only 45 per cent of the vote and behaved as if he'd won 53 per cent or 63 per cent," said David Rohde, a political expert.

Mr. Clinton "put forward a very large agenda, a very ambitious agenda and an agenda which was not responsive to the people who did not vote for him," Mr. Rohde said.

The president's domestic

political miscalculations were compounded by a string of foreign policy setbacks in Bosnia that marred successes in Haiti, North Korea and Latin America.

He was also damaged by cascading developments in the probe of business dealings in his Arkansas past, known as Whitewater, and a sexual harassment lawsuit brought by a Little Rock woman named Paula Jones.

As 1995 drew to a close, Mr. Clinton's job approval rating was lower than that of any other recent president at an equivalent point except Ronald Reagan, whose poll numbers sank even lower during the 1982 recession.

In a bid to win back the support of working Americans who deserted the Democrats in the mid-term elections, Mr. Clinton will make passage of a "middle class bill of rights" his main focus in 1995.

The centrepiece is a set of tax cuts tailored to help the broad middle class with child-care, home-buying, college tuition, elder-care and medical expenses.

"I challenge the new Congress to work with me to enact a middle class bill of rights without adding to the deficit and without any new cuts in social security or Medicare," Mr. Clinton said.

"I don't know how that

works for Bill Clinton," said Cal Mackenzie, a Colby College political analyst. "He's going to end up in a position of either having to sign a bill that has 'Republican' stamped all over it, or vetoing a bill because it's too expensive and he has to do the responsible thing."

Political analysts of all stripes said that while Mr. Clinton was in difficult straits, it was too early to write him off.

James MacGregor Burns, a noted historian and biographer of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, said the occupant of the Oval Office "always has a lot of resources to fall back on."

"The president has his ability to use the bully pulpit he has appointments he can make and he has the veto," he said.

If history repeats itself, the 1996 presidential election will be a cliffhanger — that's what happened after lopsided mid-term elections shocked and dismayed the party in control of the White House in 1946, 1958, 1966 and 1974.

And Mr. Burns sees a stand-off between Clinton and the new Republican majority in Congress in the meantime.

"Nobody is going to control the agenda. We're going to have a lot more deadlock, a lot more gridlock," he said.



**AWAITING THE RUSSIANS:** Chechen away. The boom of the artillery resounded volunteers in the town of Pervomayskaya (some 20 kilometres north of Grozny) stand on one hour after the expiry of the Russian deadline for the rebel regime to lay down its arms (AFP photo)

## Strike cripples Karachi; 6 killed

**KARACHI (AFP)** — Six people died and 15 were wounded as state troops and other gunmen opened fire Sunday during a strike here by a militant sectarian party that crippled Pakistan's troubled commercial capital, witnesses said.

The paramilitary troops opened fire in a predominantly Shiite residential area, leaving three dead and at least five injured, witnesses and hospital sources said. It was not immediately clear why the Rangers fired.

Three others were killed and at least 10 people were injured when gunmen fired from moving cars to force people off the roads, witnesses said.

The strike was called by the Sunni Muslim group Sipah-E-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) to protest the failure by police to arrest the killers of eight people, including the city chief of SSP, in a mosque attack on Dec. 7.

All major markets and bazaars remained closed and traffic on the streets was negligible.

A second strike was called by Transporters Associations to protest the burning of more than three dozen vehicles during a wave of violence here over the past few days.

A few state-owned buses on the streets, but most offices reported low attendance. Sunday is a working day in Karachi.

The Karachi Stock Exchange closed early as there was no trading on the floor, brokers said.

Port activity was also affected. Less than five per cent of the port and customs staff were present.

## Berlusconi's political life on the line

**ROME (R)** — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's political life was on the line Sunday as he prepared to face three no-confidence motions planned by the opposition and a major coalition ally later in the week.

Political commentators were pessimistic about Mr. Berlusconi's future, saying the numbers were stacked against him, but worried about what could replace his government if he lost.

The main threat to Mr. Berlusconi comes from the federalist Northern League government party, which will present its motion together with the centrist opposition Popular Party.

The League has some 105 of the coalition's 366 seats in the 630-member Chamber of Deputies (lower house).

It can also count on most of the opposition, including the Democratic Party of the left (PDS), which, in coordination with the League will present its own motion.

"We've done it. The little dictator will fall on Thursday," La Repubblica newspaper quoted League leader Umberto Bossi as saying after he decided to present the motion.

"A man with no confidence," was the headline in La Voce newspaper over a picture of Berlusconi, his head inclined and face hidden by two clenched fists.

The most likely day for the vote is Thursday, after the 1995 budget is passed and a debate on Mr. Berlusconi's coalition is held.

For good measure, the Marxist Communist reformation party has announced a no-confidence vote in the Senate (upper house).

The motions are the crowning of the league's bid to topple billionaire Berlusconi, who swept to power at the head of a conservative "Freedom Alliance" in general elections last March.

They follow months of argument between the League and the two other main coalition members, Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) and the hard right national alliance.

Mr. Berlusconi's credibility has been further undermined by an ongoing row with Milan magistrates who are investigating him over allegations of corruption he denies.

Mr. Berlusconi has branded the moves to oust him as a swindle. He says there must be new elections if he is ousted.

His most loyal ally, National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini, was far from optimistic about the outcome of the vote.

"Overcoming those challenges will be difficult," he told Corriere Della Sera newspaper. "But it will be equally hard to set up a new majority in parliament and those who are preparing the motions are cranking up the machinery for new elections."

A Corriere editorial said

## Bulgarians place hopes in new poll

**SOFIA (R)** — Bulgarians voted Sunday for their third parliament since the collapse of the Communist regime, hoping it would stop infighting and concentrate on raising living standards.

Almost 50 political parties, led by big former Communist and anti-Communist blocs, are competing for the votes of an electorate disillusioned by a democracy riven with political squabbles and organized crime.

A few hours after polling booths opened, the Central Electoral Commission issued a warning to voters not to use fake or old ballot papers after it was discovered that party activists had been handing them out.

"One should not vote with unofficial ballot papers, including those from previous elections or home-made ballot papers," Commission spokeswoman Ralitsa Negenstova said in a statement broadcast on state radio.

The radio said earlier irregular ballot papers had emerged "in many places" but Ms. Negenstova said that there were no major infringements of the law. The commission was not immediately available for further comment.

Despite disappointment at a sharp drop in living standards over the past year, voting was brisk and there was some optimism as polls opened on a chilly but bright winter morning.

"This time I dropped my ballot in the box full of hope, much more than in 1991 because this time things have reached the edge when we will either disappear or survive," said Elena Dodova, 35, voting in Lozenets, a smart district of Sofia.

But Interim Prime Minister Reneta Indzhova was cynical about the election, which is being held a year early due to a parliamentary deadlock between the main political forces.

"I see a tremendous gap between the interest of the people and that which politicians are doing for them," she said as she voted in a suburb of the capital.

Donka Shishkova, headmistress of Sofia's School 49, told Philip Dimitrov, leader of the anti-Communist Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), that she hoped the school would get more attention if he became prime minister.

Asked for his expectations for the poll, Mr. Dimitrov said the only sensible result would be a UDF victory.

"Anything else would be very and very bad for Bulgaria and I think we have no grounds to expect such a thing," he told Reuters.

Mr. Dimitrov disputes opinion polls which indicate that the Socialists could end up again as the biggest party in parliament, benefiting from disappointment with

## N. Korea promises U.S. details on helicopter

**SEOUL (R)** — North Korea Sunday promises the U.S.-led United Nations command it would provide details on the two American pilots whose helicopter was forced down in the Communist state, the command said.

The promise, given in a meeting between representatives of the command and the North Korean army at the Korean border village of Panmunjom, coincided with U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson's meeting with top Communist officials in Pyongyang.

"The (North) Korean People's Army representatives to Panmunjom said information concerning the incident, including the condition and location of the two pilots, will be made available once the KPA has completed its investigation into the incident," a command statement said.

A U.S. military spokesman said another meeting has been scheduled for Monday.

"A meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow but right now no time is known," he said.

The United States has been pressuring North Korea for details on the OH-58 helicopter and the pilots since shortly after it went down three to four miles (four to seven kilometres) north of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in the eastern sector of the Korean border Saturday morning.

U.S. officials said it was unclear whether the unarmed craft, which they say strayed over the border on a routine training mission, made an emergency landing or was shot down.

North Korea Sunday repeated a statement that it shot down a U.S. helicopter intruding into its territory and that the pilots were being questioned about the intrusion.

Democratic Representative Richardson, who arrived in Pyongyang shortly after the incident on a previously scheduled trip, had talks with Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam and other senior figures, the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

A spokesman for Mr. Richardson, who is a personal friend of President Bill Clinton, said in Washington earlier that the Congressman sought "immediate access" to the two pilots and stressed that failure to return them "would have a serious impact on U.S.-North Korean relations."

Stu Nagurka, Mr. Richardson's spokesman, said the issue was "at the top of his agenda."

KCNA said Mr. Richardson also met Yang Hyong-Sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and Hwang Jang-Yop, chairman of the assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission. It gave no details of their talks.

The United States has expressed "very serious concerns" to North Korea about the fate of the two pilots, identified by the Pentagon as Army Chief Warrant Officers David Hilemon of Clarksville, Tennessee, and Bobby Hall of Brooksville, Florida.

In Washington, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Saturday that Secretary of State Warren Christopher had contacted the North Korean mission to the United Nations in New York to express concern for the safety of the pilots.

"We have indicated very serious concerns to the North Koreans about the welfare of these pilots. We want them returned," Mr. Panetta said in a television interview.

The United States has asked North Korea for a meeting at Panmunjom to discuss the return of the pilots.

Frosty relations between the United States and North Korea had recently warmed following Pyongyang's agreement to abandon its current nuclear reactors with less threatening power sources.

Earlier this year the United States and North Korea were on the brink of confrontation over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons programme and its refusal to let U.N. experts inspect its nuclear sites.

The signing in October of the agreement for North Korea to freeze its graphite-moderate reactors helped alleviate tension.

The United States, which promised to deliver safer nuclear reactors costing \$4 billion, has been holding talks with the North over setting up liaison offices in each other's capitals as a first step toward normalising relations.

The straying into North Korea of the U.S. helicopter was the latest in a string of incidents underscoring the tensions on the Korean peninsula.

North and South Korea have lived in uneasy truce across the demilitarized zone (DMZ), a four-kilometre wide strip of no man's land that divides the two Koreas since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Frequent clashes along the border have taken more than 50 American and 1,000 South Korean lives since the 1953 armistice halted the war.

North Korea shot down a U.S. CH-47 helicopter in July 1977, killing three people and injuring one on board. The bodies and the surviving crewmen were returned three days later.

Also in 1969 two North Korean MiGs shot down a USN Ex-121 reconnaissance aircraft off the Northern east coast, killing 31 Americans.

The worst year was 1968, which witnessed a total of 162 U.S. and South Korean military officers killed and 294 injured in 181 separate incidents.

On Jan. 21, 1968, 29 North Koreans were killed and one captured when they intruded into Seoul in an attempt to assassinate former President Park Chung-Hee.

Two days later, a U.S. navy vessel, the Pueblo, with 84 seamen aboard was seized by North Korea in international waters off the peninsula's east coast. Nearly 11 months later, 82 crew members were released.

On Aug. 18, 1976 North Korean soldiers axed to death two U.S. military officers, pressing an overgrown tree in the truce village of Panmunjom.

The Stalinist state keeps about one million men under arms, some 60 per cent of them deployed near the border with the South, the United States has 37,000 troops in South Korea.

"Apart from these attacks, shootings along the border are quite frequent," said a U.S. military spokesman.

The latest serious shooting incident occurred in May 1992 when three North Korean troops were killed and two South Korean soldiers were injured after a group of North Koreans entered the southern part of the DMZ.

In Panmunjom in late 1984, the defection of a former Soviet Union tour guide triggered a gun battle in which three Northern soldiers and one from the South died.

## EU to allow foreigners to vote in local elections

**BRUSSELS (R)** — Not without a struggle, the European Union is about to allow its citizens to vote or run in local elections no matter where they live.

A new law expected to be adopted by EU foreign ministers Monday could lead to a French mayor being elected in Denmark or to Greeks voting for a municipal councillor in Britain.

Under the proposal, EU citizens living in any of the Union's member states would be allowed to vote for local political posts where they live and to run to hold them too.

It is similar to the right granted to EU citizens to vote locally for members of the European Parliament, the EU's only directly elected body.

But while granting the right to vote for a Euro-MP was relatively easy for members states, national governments have been less enamoured with the plan, embodied in the Maastricht Treaty, to open local voter rolls to outsiders.

France, Luxembourg and Belgium have succeeded in getting exemptions attached to the law, each designed to avoid giving too much power to expatriate EU citizens.

In Luxembourg, where more than 20 per cent of the population comes from elsewhere — mainly Portugal and Italy — outsiders will have to be residents for six years before getting the vote.

Expatriates will also not be allowed to create candidate lists under Luxembourg's proportional representation system.

In France, non-French EU voters will not be allowed to vote for mayor on the grounds that French mayors have certain law enforcement powers.

Nor, if elected to a relevant local post, will they be allowed to help choose French senators, a task currently carried out by some local officials.

In Belgium, meanwhile, there are fears that letting foreigners vote for local officials could shake the fragile

French-Dutch language balance that is the basis of the country's political system.

Thousands of non-Belgian EU nationals, living in the area because of EU institutions, reside in Dutch-speaking communes, or districts, surrounding Brussels.

Nearly all of them speak French. Very few speak Dutch.

If they were to be given the vote, officials in the communes fear, they would be likely to vote for French-speaking officials, threatening the hold of the Dutch speakers on their traditional communes.

The result is an exemption saying that in any commune where the non-Belgian population is greater than 20 per cent, foreigners will have had to be resident for six years before being entitled to vote.

Some European Commission officials have hinted they may challenge the exemptions before the European Court of Justice.

Meanwhile, European Union fisheries ministers will meet Monday to try to resolve a dispute over fishing rights.

EU leaders meeting in Essen, Germany, earlier this month ordered fisheries ministers to sort out the row over access for Spanish and Portuguese fishermen to the Union's Western waters — by the end of the year.

## Apathy grips mayoral poll in Slovenia

**LIJUBLJANA (AFP)** — Voter apathy stamped itself on the second round of Slovenia's mayoral elections Sunday, as just 18.6 per cent of the registered 1.5 million voters bothered to cast their ballots Sunday morning in a poll likely to give a thumbs-down to Premier Janez Drnovsek.

The turnout at 11:00 a.m. (1000 GMT) was four per cent down on turnout at the same stage in the first round on Dec. 4, the Electoral Commission said.

Commission officials said many Slovenians had taken advantage of a perfect winter's day to go skiing in the Kranjska Gora or Planica Mountains north of Ljubljana.

In the first municipal elections since Slovenia gained independence in 1991, turnout at the end of the first round was 60 per cent, leaving Mr. Drnovsek's ruling coalition looking for an improvement Sunday.

In the opening round, Mr. Drnovsek's centre-left Liberal Democratic Party slumped to 17.2 per cent, down from 23.5 per cent in the 1992 general election.

The party's unease is shared by the other leftist party in the three-party coalition, the former communist United List, which was fighting to maintain its 13.5 per cent share of the vote.

The conservative Christian Democrats, also in the coalition, were meanwhile looked forward to consolidating their increased 18 per cent share of the vote, up from 14.5 per cent in the general election.

Overall, the first round gains went to the right-wing parties. The opposition Social Democratic Party was the biggest winner from the first round, gaining 14 per cent against its 3.5 per cent showing in 1992.

The agrarian Popular Party also increased its share, from 8.7 per cent to 12 per cent.

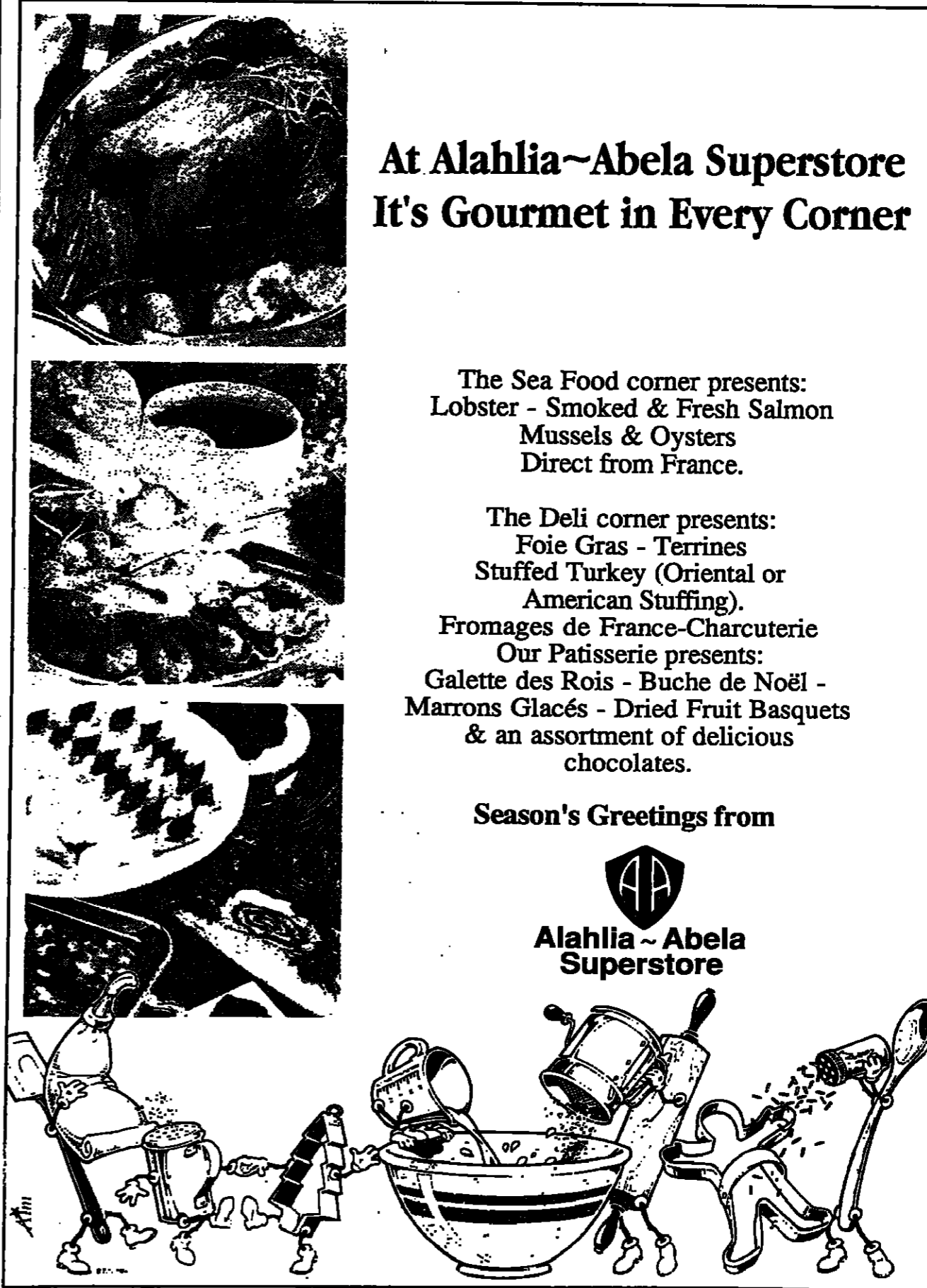
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# Features

## Crisis looms as Europe runs out of dump sites

By Christopher Burns  
The Associated Press

ENTRESSEN, France — The artificial mountain reeks in the morning sun, growing ever bigger as cranes empty train cars loaded with tonnes of Marseille's trash.

Reputed to be Europe's biggest waste dump, covering 85 hectares that includes refuse from before World War I, it is a symbol of the garbage crisis facing much of the continent.

As in the United States, dumps are filling fast in Europe and new sites are hard to find because of high population density and "not in my backyard" resistance. That is forcing countries to step up plans to incinerate or export trash.

Environmentalists, in turn, are fighting those plans. They say that incinerators emit dangerous pollutants, that more should be done to limit product packaging, and that Europe should stop exporting its garbage, especially toxic waste.

"In a number of countries there's a real saturation problem," said Marius Enthoven, the European Union's director general for environment and nuclear safety.

By 2005, landfills "will become a secondary or tertiary option. Some countries will go for the incineration solution," he said.

Marseille, by the end of the decade, will have to find somewhere else to roll 60 railcars filled with 15 tonnes each of garbage daily, said Jean St. Martin, a technical advisor at the Entressen dump 48 kilometres northwest of the Mediterranean port.

The city plans to build two incinerators within its boundaries, but locals are fighting it.

Marseille's recycling programme targets metal, paper, wood, glass, tyres, batteries and used oil, and "people are asking for it to expand," Mr. St. Martin said. But plastic, 25 per cent of the trash arriving at Entressen, is not recycled.

The problem is cost. Re-

cycling already is so successful that the supply of returned and sorted refuse is outstripping demand, forcing Marseille to pay companies \$38 a tonne just to cart off paper, Mr. St. Martin said.

Incineration is cheaper than recycling, Marseille Mayor Robert Vigouroux said.

"In France we consider the most important thing is to get value out of garbage," said Francis Chalot, a waste engineer at France's Environment Ministry. "Recycling is not the best way sometimes."

Paris no longer has dumps and instead has three incinerators, two of which produce heating for the city's buildings, Mr. Chalot said.

"What system doesn't pollute? To sort more effectively, you'd have to send more trucks to pick it up," he said.

French officials support their case for incineration by pointing to Germany, where companies were overwhelmed by recycled trash after instituting a programme that allows consumers to return packaging.

"When the Germans pick it up, they don't know what to do with it," Mr. Chalot said.

The German government has stepped in to help finance recycling. But while the country may look "greener" than some of its neighbours, it is dumping abroad.

France is one of the main destinations — the environmental group Greenpeace calls it "Europe's garbage can" — for both legal and illicit trash shipments.

French customs officials say 30,000 tonnes of demolition refuse were dumped illegally in northern Alsace this year. In September, officials found an illegal dump near the eastern town of Bar-le-Duc containing 300 tonnes of discarded plastic packaging from Germany.

Mr. Enthoven is gradually standardising regulations on transporting waste between member nations.

The EU also issued a directive in May banning the export of nonrecyclable waste to non-European countries,

he said. But the tougher rules do not take effect until 1998 and exempt existing trash-export agreements.

If France is Europe's garbage can, "Germany is by far the world champion in the export of toxic waste," said Jan Rispens, a researcher for Greenpeace. He said Germany shipped 1.3 million tonnes to other nations between 1989 and last March, half the world total.

In Italy, only about 2.5 per cent of trash is recycled, said Enrico Fontana of the environmental group Lega Ambiente.

Italy lacks a policy on packaging, which accounts for an estimated 40 per cent of household waste. That amounts to 500 kilograms per person in major Italian cities annually, according to the Italian magazine Panorama.

The city dump for Madrid, Spain, is full, and up to 40 per cent of Spain's trash goes to unauthorised dumps, said another Greenpeace researcher, Oliva Nunez. The rest is burned.

Barcelona, where new recycling centres are opening, has about 10 years of life left for its dump, said Jaime Mireno, a spokesman for that Spanish city.

Barcelona may expand incineration. It "is not very ecological. But there aren't any other options," he said.

That idea alarms environmental activists.

Waste incineration "threatens to become the leading contributor to the degradation of human and environmental health," a Greenpeace study said.

Incineration of plastics and other trash produces dioxins, which are chemical substances linked to cancer, birth defects and reduced fertility.

But French officials say the dioxin problem is being addressed.

"That's the case with the old types (of incinerators); they've had problems with dioxins," Mr. Enthoven said. He said new technology has lowered emissions, but also conceded it "hasn't been applied everywhere."

## Biblical king troubles Israeli government

By Danny Gur-Arieh  
Reuters

JERUSALEM — An adulterous king of Israel 3,000 years ago is threatening to wreak havoc on the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Rabin, in Israel's parliament, angry when Foreign Minister Shimon Peres questioned the moral scruples of the Biblical King David, will force a no-confidence vote in parliament on Monday.

"This government deserves to fall over this matter. The foreign minister hurt the feelings of millions," said Rabbi Abraham Ravitz of the Degel Hatorah party in parliament.

He acknowledged ultra-religious parties had little chance of toppling the government.

But the row may make it more difficult for Mr. Rabin — eager to bolster peace moves by expanding his government — to add a religious party to his coalition.

"Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres, whose moves to settle Israel's conflict with the Palestinians won them each a Nobel Peace Prize, have had a harder time keeping peace in Israeli political circles."

Not even Mr. Peres's apology could halt the controversy.

It was during a debate over the Nobel Prize in parliament that the row erupted.

Rabbi angry at Mr. Peres's position in favour of ceding occupied land for peace cited King David — a conqueror — as a real hero of the Jewish people.

"Not everything King David did on the ground and on the rooftops seems to me to be Jewish or appeals to me," Mr. Peres said to launch the storm.

In the Biblical book of Samuel, King David orders Bathsheba, wife of one of his warriors, brought to his palace after seeing her on a rooftop. "And he lay with her," the book says. Later David sent her husband to die in battle.

In the modern-day exchange, sparked by Mr. Peres's comment, rabbis rushed to David's defence, citing him as a great peacemaker who established Jerusalem as the heart of Judaism.



In parliament, Rabbi Ravitz shouted at Mr. Peres to "shut his mouth". Reporters said Rabbi Abraham Ravitz became so worked up he had to take medication to lower his blood pressure.

Cabinet minister Shulamit Aloni of the leftist Meretz Party said she rejected any notion the religious parties had a monopoly on interpreting Jewish tradition and fore-

cast the no-confidence motion would fail.

But the ruling Labour Party under Mr. Rabin, whose previous government fell 17 years ago in a clash with a religious coalition partner, was taking no chances.

Labour Party officials held fast-minute consultations with religious party members to try to get them to drop the motion in the 120-member

Knesset and ordered all party members to show up for the vote.

Mr. Rabin's 56-member coalition relies on support from Arab-dominant parties outside the government to survive close votes. Their support appeared assured but any absence of coalition members could tilt the balance.

Religious parties have been part of nearly every Israeli government in the country's 46-year history. The ultra-Orthodox Shas Party joined the Labour-led government in 1992 but bolted a year later over Shas corruption scandals.

Mr. Rabin has since been trying to bring Shas back to broaden his base of support for peace moves with neighbouring Arabs.

## Carter on Bosnia mission

(Continued from page 12)

has since evolved into an elder statesman whose private diplomacy has helped settle explosive crises in North Korea and Haiti.

The Balkan mission shaped up as his most complex and politically treacherous challenge yet, involving three national communities hardened by years of war and adept at manipulating would-be peacemakers for their own ends.

Western officials and Bosnian Muslims were concerned that the Serbs would abuse his high diplomatic reputation to undercut the contact group plan. But the top U.N. official in former Yugoslavia ruled this out after briefing Mr. Carter.

"I think... Carter is too intelligent to be manipulated

by anybody," said Yasushi Akashi, civilian chief of UNPROFOR and special envoy of the U.N. secretary general in the Balkans.

Some diplomats said Mr. Carter's only prospect of success was if the Bosnian Serbs and Mr. Karadzic needed him as a face-saving figleaf for reversing their repudiation of the peace plan.

Mr. Carter arrived in ex-Yugoslavia without evidence the Bosnian Serbs had fulfilled promises made under a new "peace initiative" by Mr. Karadzic to stop paralyzing U.N. humanitarian operations and end fighting around Sarajevo.

Mr. Karadzic pledged last week to free detained U.N. personnel, reopen besieged Sarajevo airport for U.N. aid flights, allow U.N. convoys to move freely, release Mus-

lim prisoners under 19 years of age and accept a ceasefire in Sarajevo.

"I will observe very closely the commitment by Dr.

Karadzic and will decide what to do after discussions I will be leading with the president of Bosnia when we arrive in Sarajevo," Mr. Carter said.

## Rabin ready for compromise

(Continued from page 1)

tration, a Palestinian official said Sunday.

The Israeli army said that Palestinian police force, set up under the Israeli-PLO peace accord, had apologised in the name of Mr. Arafat for the incident in which an Israeli soldier was wounded and the policeman, who shouted abuse before opening fire, was wounded, and captured.

The shooting took place at an Israeli army post at Sufa in the southern Gaza Strip. Both injured men were taken to hospital in fair condition.

Palestinian Authority official Soufian Abu Zaid said commanders had launched an investigation.

"The soldier did what he did out of frustration, out of anger. Over what? I can't say," he told army radio.

An Israeli army statement said: "The heads of the Palestinian police expressed in the name of the police and Chairman Arafat great regret over the incident."

Palestinians said it was the act of a single policeman who would be punished severely and wished the soldier a swift recovery, the army statement said.

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## Republicans to open '95 with a spending cut blitz Analysts expect Fed to resume raising interest rates next month

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) meets Tuesday to consider raising interest rates for the seventh time this year, but most analysts are betting it will hold off from acting rather than spoil the Christmas cheer.

After boosting short-term rates sharply just last month, the inflation-wary central bank is at a crossroads. It knows the economy is ending 1994 with a bang, but it expects growth to slow next year as the tighter credit bite.

The result, a probable decision at Tuesday's meeting to delay a rate increase until after the start of the new year, when the Fed will have a better idea of how the economy performed during the crucial Christmas selling season.

"They will wait a bit longer, wanting to take a look at Christmas spending and inflation as they go into the new year," said David Jones, a veteran Fed watcher and chief economist at Wall Street firm Aubrey G. Landon and Co.

But the delay is likely to be short-lived. Most analysts expect the central bank to resume raising interest rates next month. Mr. Jones is looking for a half percentage point increase in January.

Some other analysts expect up to full point boost. Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan was as clear as ever gets in signalling that higher rates are on the way in testimony to Congress earlier this month.

While insisting that he did not know whether the central bank would raise rates this week, Mr. Greenspan painted a picture of an economy that was growing too fast for the Fed's liking and that was fueling inflationary pressures in the process.

"We must remain alert to signs of inflationary pressures," he told Congress' Joint Economic Committee. "If price increases are accommodated, they can become readily embedded in higher inflation expectations."

Even some Clinton administration insiders admit that higher short-term interest rates are likely next year. "It's not unreasonable to think there might be further rate increases," was how one senior official put it.

But the official, who declined to be named, expects the Fed to hold off from acting this week as it tries to gauge the economic impact of the actions that it's already taken.

The Fed has raised rates by a total of 2½ percentage points since February, including three-quarters last month.

"This is a time when you want to have a delicate hand," the senior Clinton administration official said.

That argument is not lost on policymakers at the Fed, even the so-called anti-inflation hawks. They want to cool off the economy and thus extend the economic expansion, not kill it.

"If you try to do too much too fast, there's a chance of an overkill," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Minneapolis-based Norwest Corp.

So far there doesn't seem much risk of that happening. A string of economic indicators released last week — from housing starts to industrial production — showed the economy continuing to steam ahead.

But there were some faint signs of a possible slowdown on the horizon. In a national survey, builders reported growing increasingly gloomy about home sales as spiralling mortgage interest rates discouraged prospective buyers.

And the financial markets were signalling that they expect slower growth as well, with long-term interest rates easing and Wall Street stocks sagging.

For its part, the administration expects the Fed to succeed in its effort to slow the expansion without killing it, and is projecting annual economic growth of about 2½ per cent over the next two years, officials said.

But for that to happen, the

Fed will have to pay as much attention to where the economy is going as to where it's coming from in plotting monetary strategy in the days and weeks ahead.

Meanwhile, the Republican-dominated Congress plans a coordinated blitz on government spending, starting when Congress convenes in the first week of 1995.

More than \$850 billion in cuts over five years would pay for equally ambitious tax cuts and balance the budget.

Wall Street and Democrats may be sceptical, but Republicans feel they have public support for smaller government.

"For the next year we're going to make the tough choices," said incoming Senate majority whip, Trent Lott, a Mississippi Republican. "It's going to happen."

Hearings on major agenda items are planned to start on Jan. 5, when Congress usually goes into recess after formal ceremonies the day before.

For example, Senate hearings will focus on freeing states from spending their own money on federally mandated programmes and on a constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

Republicans plan to vote on the balanced budget amendment by Jan. 19 in the House and in the Senate by month's end.

They like President Bill Clinton's plan to give \$60 billion in tax relief to middle-income earners but plan to go much further.

"The president's budget won't be dead on arrival when it comes to Capitol Hill next year," said a senior Republican Senate aide. "We're going to take his ideas for cutting government and then cut even more."

History shows that Congress finds it much easier to make popular tax cuts than to find the money to pay for them.

Some participants in financial markets are already concerned that the rush to cut taxes could force higher gov-

ernment borrowings and in turn send interest rates higher.

But Republicans say not to worry. "We plan on having more in spending cuts than we would have in tax cuts," said Mr. Lott. "We would have money left over."

And Republicans plan to cut a lot. A senior Senate Republican aide estimated \$850 billion in cuts are needed over the next five years, much larger than any deficit cutting package ever passed.

"These cuts will be huge, enormous, unbelievable," a House Republican aide said. "It will be the most radical change you have ever seen in federal government."

But won't Mr. Clinton use his presidential veto? outlining his tax-cut plan in an address to the nation, Mr. Clinton warned that he wouldn't tolerate "ideas that hurt poor people."

But the Republicans argue that Mr. Clinton is now a follower who may take their lead.

"It's just another case of the president saying 'me too,' chided budget committee chairman-designate John Kasich, a Republican from Ohio, after Mr. Clinton proposed his tax cuts.

Republican leaders from both houses are conferring often to coordinate their strategy.

House speaker-designate Newt Gingrich of Georgia and Senate majority leader-designate Robert Dole of Kansas have assigned two letters in recent weeks, including one urging Mr. Clinton to adopt their platform on taxes, foreign and domestic policy.

They pain to roll their major proposals into one large budget bill that can move through the House and Senate under special rules that limit debate.

The Republicans think they can get Mr. Clinton's signature on a bill that the nation is expected to reach the statutory limit on its accumulated debt of \$4.9 trillion in August.

## Egyptian exports rise by 14%

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian exports rose by more than 14 per cent in the 1993-94 financial year, Economy Minister Mohamed Mahmoud Bayumi said in an interview published Sunday.

Exports stood at 10.4 billion Egyptian pounds (\$3 billion) between July 1993 and June 1994, compared with 9.1 billion pounds (\$2.6 billion) the previous year, Mr. Bayumi told the Al-Ahram daily.

The figure surpasses the expectations of the International Monetary Fund, which forecast exports worth \$2.98 billion in the last financial year.

But it remains lower than Egypt's import levels, which hit \$15 billion in 1992-93.

Mr. Bayumi said the government would aim to further boost exports next year by implementing measures set out in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, signed by Egypt.

"Taxes imposed on some exported food products will be removed while others will be reduced," the minister said.

Egypt's main export is oil products. According to an international expert, non-oil exports make up just four per cent of the country's gross domestic product, compared to six per cent in 1987-88.

## Top China labour officials urge state redundancies

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese state-owned companies must be allowed to lay off excess workers despite the accompanying threat of mass unemployment, Vice-Labour Minister Zhu Jianshen was quoted as saying.

Unless the firms are allowed to relieve themselves of the "historic burden" of supporting thousands of surplus workers, the government's bid to create a modern enterprise system will become an "impossibility," Mr. Zhu was quoted as saying by the China Business Times.

"We must authorise these firms to cut their labour forces," Mr. Zhu said.

Official estimates put the number of surplus state-sector employees in China at more than 30 million.

While admitting that mass redundancies would mean a surge in unemployment, Mr. Zhu stressed that such an outcome was the only realistic choice.

"It means that hidden unemployment will become public unemployment," he said.

Despite experimenting with bankruptcies, the Chinese government has so far held off from a serious

overhaul of the ailing state sector, fearing that the social consequences could fuel unrest.

One of the main obstacles to forced redundancies had been the country's inadequate social security system, which would leave many former workers without financial support.

However, the myriad problems facing the state sector have now become so pressing that stronger measures are clearly required if China's reform programme is to press ahead.

"I we allow firms to lay off excess workers, the contradictions that have been thrown up by enterprise reform will be reduced," Mr. Zhu said.

China's ailing state firms have urged the government to allow them to dismiss 20 per cent of their workers, blaming lack of control over personnel and funding shortages for their problems.

The Economic Daily said that nearly 79 per cent of the 1,272 state enterprises questioned in a recent State Statistical Bureau survey said it remained too difficult to decide personnel matters independently and to lay off

armies to surplus workers, the report said. The firms have had the theoretical right to take such personnel decisions since the 1980s.

The enterprises said they only dismissed workers in exceptional circumstances, and in such cases the victims and their families often demonstrated outside the factory gates or the director's house and were frequently supported by the unit's official union or party committee.

"Surplus labour is one of

the main reasons for the poor efficiency of enterprises," the report said, citing the views of the firms surveyed between April and August.

"At present, the government does not have to create any more special conditions for state enterprises or give them any more rights. If it just allows to cut their work forces by 20 per cent, then they will do very well. A cut of 30 per cent would be even better," it said.

About one quarter of the loss-making sector's 103 million workers are estimated to be surplus, but the government has shied away from allowing large-scale dismissals for fear that soaring unemployment — with only a fledgling welfare net — would lead to unrest.

Among the surveyed firms' other major grips were severe shortages for working capital and rapid increases in debts.

Nearly three quarters said their capital was insufficient while 80 per cent said the debt burden had become heavier in recent years, the survey showed, adding that slightly over four per cent had experienced a decline in debts.

Fears that funding shortages may cause enterprises to go under has forced the government to ease up its 18-month tight-credit policy on several occasions. Many of the enterprises rely on state subsidies for survival.

The sector's losses are estimated at least 30 billion yuan (\$3.5 billion) a year.

The surveyed enterprises were located in 13 cities or provinces and included 434 large-scale firms, 641 medium-scale and 129 small-scale, the report said.

## Asian economies forecast to expand 7.3% in 1995

TOKYO (AFP) — Economic expansion in eight Asian economies is forecast to slow from an average of 7.4 per cent this year to 7.3 per cent next year, a governmental institute has said.

The Institute of Developing Economies, a research unit backed by the Ministry of International Trade and Industries (MITI), said that the slight contraction would be the result of an expected decline in exports from the region next year. But the institute said the eight economies — Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Taiwan — would easily maintain seven per cent growth, supported by continued foreign investment.

Thailand is forecast to post economic growth of 8.9 per cent next year, the highest expansion in the region, up from this year's 8.7 per cent. Singapore is expected to show growth of 8.9 per cent, down from 10.3 per cent this year. Malaysia is forecast to post growth of 8.5 per cent, down from 8.9 per cent while South Korea is expected to show a 7.7 per cent increase, down from a 8.2 per cent increase.

Growth of the Indonesian economy is projected to accelerate from 7.1 per cent to 7.6 per cent, while Taiwan's economic growth is to recover slightly from 6.3 per cent to 6.4 per cent. The Philippine economy is to mark growth of 5.8 per cent, up from 4.5 per cent, but growth in Hong Kong is to slow from 5.7 per cent to 5.3 per cent.

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## Four L. American states sign trade accord

OURO PRETO, Brazil (R) — The presidents of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay Saturday sanctioned the almost-total liberalisation of regional trade from Jan. 1 next year.

Presidents Carlos Menem of Argentina, Itamar Franco of Brazil, Juan Carlos Wasmosy of Paraguay and Alberto Lacalle of Uruguay — meeting in the Brazilian town of Ouro Preto — signed a docu-

ment furthering the development of the Mercosur common market.

The four presidents welcomed the presence of ministers from Bolivia and Chile, two countries which have expressed interest in joining Mercosur in the near future.

The protocol marks the ratification of Mercosur thus allowing for future negotiations with other countries and groups such as the European

Union.

The presidents reaffirmed the democratic values of Mercosur which they considered essential to achieve the final goal of common market.

Mercosur, Spanish for common market of the southern cone, will group 200 million people and has a collective \$700 billion in gross domestic product.

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay have \$10

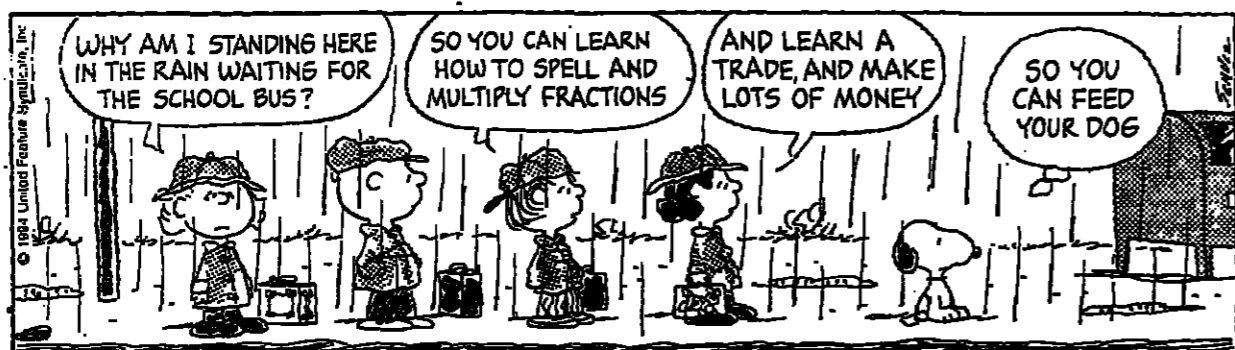
billion in annual trade among them, a figure which is expected to rise to \$12 billion next year.

Under the accord, 90-905 per cent of goods traded among the nations will have no tariffs. The rest will have tariffs that can be eased over the next five years.

The average tariff for countries outside Mercosur is 12 per cent, with a range from zero to 20 per cent.

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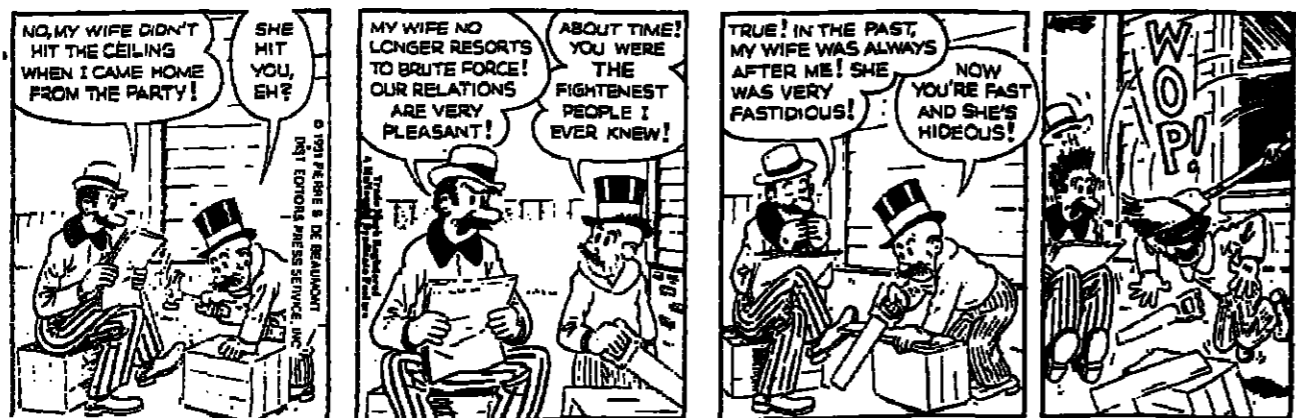
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**HOROSCOPE**  
FORECAST FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1994  
By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation  
GENERAL TENDENCIES: You need more information about how best to get assistance from friends. Get your practical affairs in better order while steering clear of a progressive visionary who goes way over budget.  
ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Let a higher-up realize your capabilities and don't burden yourself with new responsibilities. Get outside duties handled very well.  
TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't permit a partner to limit you in some worthwhile enterprise. Be more aware of the opportunities open up to you.  
GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You feel hemmed in by tasks, but if you concentrate on the profits to be made, you can soon be very active and enthused.  
MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You cannot afford to take on all the expense of entertainment, so it would be wise to go dutch treat for all your associates.  
LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at outside duties you have promised to perform and get away from confining conditions at home which restrict your progress.  
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Have a good time with a bigwig and forget that delay in communications. You have some special talent which should be perfected at this time.  
LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Although you may feel financially inadequate, be happy within the bosom of your family. Try to get a bigwig to visit you and get suggestions.  
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You feel stalemated so go out and see another person who is cheerful and let it rub off on you so you can have a very pleasant visit.  
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you get into financial affairs from a new angle, you get better results now. A monetary expert can give you excellent advice.  
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Keep busy at whatever is practical and see your friends some other time, since they could be out of sorts today and not be complacent.  
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Do nothing which could ruin your standing within the community in which you reside. Have a delightful time with kin and friends.  
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have an influential friend who can assist you at this time, so contact him or her early. Be more concerned with personal aims in the evening.  
Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

**THE Daily Crossword** by Fran Ragus  
ACROSS  
1. Dorian  
5. Grouch  
9. Minute quantity  
13. Cold cream  
14. High seat  
15. Fingerprint  
16. Fingerprint  
17. Fingerprint  
18. Fingerprint  
19. Presidential  
20. Set, suit  
21. Nodding  
22. River in India  
23. Fingerprint  
24. Fingerprint  
25. Fingerprint  
26. Fingerprint  
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## U.S., Pakistan sign \$2.5b energy deals

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.S. and Pakistani companies signed 18 deals Saturday amounting to \$2.5 billion of investment in Pakistan's energy and petroleum sectors.

Memorandums of understanding were signed at a special ceremony in Islamabad after six days of talks between U.S. and Pakistani firms.

U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary William White, who led a U.S. business delegation, hailed the signing in a speech as another important milestone in the continuing development of a U.S.-Pakistani energy partnership.

Four agreements worth more than \$2 billion were for power generation projects, four worth \$425 million related to energy efficiency and renewable energy technology, and 10 worth \$58 million were for oil and gas concessions.

"These agreements reflect the interest of the private industry in America — and the interest of the government of the United States — in expanding business ties with Pakistan," said Mr. White, who praised Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government for its investment incentives.

Mr. White's visit followed one by U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary in September when U.S. businessmen signed energy deals amounting to \$4 billion.

Mr. White told a news conference that the agreements would take years to be fully implemented but said some ground-breaking would begin next year.

Pakistan Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Anwar Saifullah said Islamabad would soon announce new policies to encourage foreign investment in hydroelectric power generation and

mineral exploration.

The four power generation projects worth \$2.018 billion signed Saturday, include coal-fired and gas-fired stations, a U.S. statement said. The participating U.S. companies are Alcorn Inc., American United Machinery, Leesburg Financial and BBI.

Of the \$425 million projects, two involve wind generation, one hydro and one energy efficiency, with U.S. companies including Kenetech, Omega Zond, Synergics and Condyne.

The 10 deals in oil and gas concessions worth \$58 million "rang from seismic opera-

tions to the construction of an LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) terminal," the statement added.

U.S. companies partnering Pakistani firms in those projects included Union Texas Petroleum, Occidental Petroleum, Ferrellgas North America, Veco, and Improved Petroleum Recovery International.

In addition to the 18 deals, the United States and Pakistani ministers signed five bilateral agreements involving hydrocarbon research, renewable energy resources and energy conservation, the statement said.

## Organised crime is main threat to business — study

LONDON (R) — Fraud is turning into a greater threat to international business than terrorism, consultants Control Risks Group said Monday.

"While political instability, nationalism and religious extremism will continue to disrupt business in 1995, organised crime is the most pervasive and sophisticated threat business will face next year," said a study in the group's Business Security Outlook.

The report said the threat

of organised crime is growing because of several factors. The globalisation of business is leading to a globalisation of organised crime and criminals have increasingly sophisticated technology available to them.

Jobless guerrillas seeking alternative employment in criminal groups and disenchanted youths turning to crime now that left-wing ideology has gone out of fashion were other factors cited by the study.

"The threat of crime is set to become a key item on board meeting agendas," said Nigel Churton, managing director of Control Risks Group.

A survey of British businesses published in the Business Security Outlook

showed that Russia, Nigeria, Egypt and China were considered the most risky places to do business.

But Christopher Grose, director of Control Risks Information Services, said the risks of Egypt were overestimated.

"While we would agree with business about the extent of the risks in Russia, Nigeria and China, businesses overestimate the threat in Egypt. In fact aside from a few isolated attacks on tourists in 1994, Egypt presents an excellent opportunity for investment," he said.

The Control Risks Group also published its predictions for 1995, forecasting a civil war in Algeria and peace treaties between Israel and the Lebanon and Syria.

## Indian military enters civilian auto market

NEW DELHI (AFP) — After three years of economic reforms, the market bug has even bitten the Indian military.

The Ordnance Factory Board has become the first defence establishment to enter the civilian market by announcing that the Joga, an army all-terrain vehicle, would be available in automobile showrooms shortly.

And products ranging from designer shirts and leather jackets to detergents and steel castings could be next in line to hit store shelves carrying a "made by the military" label, according to Board officials.

Board chief Jagdish Chandra described the foray into the consumer market battlefield as a bid by the organisation to diversify its product range and customer base.

Newspaper advertisements told "people who play with

power" that the army workhorse had been restyled for city roads after serving the military in mountains, jungles and deserts.

"The army doesn't move without it. Nor will you," proclaimed the advertisement promising a "performance beyond the call of duty."

The Joga's debut in the expanding automobile market is in line with a government decision to use the excess capacity of defence factories for commercial production.

It comes three years after Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao launched reforms putting India on the road to a free market economy after decades of socialist-style insulation.

In keeping with the liberalisation, the government threw hitherto off-limits military laboratories open to industry for research into new technologies.

## Business in Kuwait depends on Jordanians, Palestinians

★ The announcement in Kuwait about the cancellation of the high salary condition for an expatriate to bring his family to the emirate is seen as a step forward to open the door wider for Jordanian and Palestinian workers to return to Kuwait.

A private study in the emirate has meanwhile pointed out that the return of Jordanian and Palestinian workers was the cornerstone for renewed commercial activity in Kuwait because the two communities have higher consumption and are bigger spenders than other communities which had a very limited role in reviving the commercial activity. Furthermore, a report by the Kuwait Ministry of Interior has revealed that the Jordanians and Palestinians had a more positive effect on the emirate's social life as they were the least of the communities there to have been involved in criminal activities. As such, the only remaining step towards allowing the return of Jordanian and Palestinian workers to Kuwait is a political decision, especially after having prepared the Kuwaiti people to accept their return following widespread rejection of them in previous years (Al Aswaq).

★ The World Bank and the U.S. will reportedly participate in financing the \$500 million Red Sea Dead Sea canal project (Al Aswaq).

★ Gas accounts for 18 per cent of the fuel used to generate electricity (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ The Social Security Corporation has issued a report reviewing the activities and achievements of the corporation during 1993. The report, the sixth of kind, reviews the economic situation between 1989 and 1993 and examines population, workforce, tourism activity and the corporation's investments. The report also describes the corporation's functions with relations to the institutions and people associated with its objectives (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO) has started to accept contracts from farmers who seek to supply the company with tomatoes for industrial processing during the next season. According to AMPCO's general manager, the company will be adopting a free pricing policy whereby it would pay the farmers according to quality and on pure commercial basis (Al Ra'i).

★ A study by the Royal Scientific Society has concluded that the quality control level for both of the metal can and the food product inside it (the can) was low, thereby negatively affecting the quality of the product and its suitability for human consumption in addition to affecting the capability of attracting foreign market interests (Al Aswaq).

★ The Cabinet has agreed to guarantee a JD 20 million Housing Bank loan to the teachers' housing fund. In implementation of a Royal directive, the government will cover the interest on the loan. It is expected that between 1,000 and 1,500 teachers will benefit from this decision for a period ranging between two and three years (Al Dustour).

★ The Council of Ministers has agreed to exempt travel and tourism offices from the seven per cent sales tax imposed last June on tourism services because such a tax will benefit foreign countries and competitors at the expense of the treasury and local operators (Al Dustour).

## Financial Markets

### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 12 - December 16, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar depreciated against the mark at the end of last week, while rising slightly against the yen and stabilising against sterling. It ended the week 0.27 per cent lower against the mark and 0.15 per cent higher against the yen.

The U.S. unit retreated against other major currencies Monday, in view of a report published by the New York Times. The report suggested that the Fed might postpone its monetary tightening from Dec. 20th, its next Federal Open Market Committee meeting, to the end of January or early February 1995. Meanwhile, reports indicated that attempts by the U.S. Congress, with the majority Republicans, to reduce taxes put a downward pressure on the dollar, since such a reduction might lead to a higher U.S. budget deficit.

The dollar continued its decline against the mark Tuesday, while rising against the yen and sterling. It fell against the mark in view of the mark's rise against other major European currencies in cross trading, which occurred after news of political instability in some major European capitals. The mark rose against the Italian lire in view of investigations over bribery charges against the Italian prime minister. It also rose against the French franc after a leading candidate for French presidential elections, Mr. Delors, said that he is not entering the next elections.

The U.S. unit retreated modestly against the mark and sterling Wednesday, while stabilising against the yen. It declined on continued mark's rise against other major European currencies, which came on the back of continued political instability in France and Italy.

The dollar rose sharply against the mark and slightly against the yen Thursday. Reports indicated that trading was slow in view of market participants' reluctance to take fresh positions ahead of the Christmas holiday.

The U.S. unit rose modestly against major European currencies Friday, while retreating slightly against the yen. The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.5728 marks, 100.23 yen at 1.5605 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	9/12/94	16/12/94	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5600	1.5605	0.03 %
Deutsche Mark	1.5770	1.5728	0.27 %
Swiss Franc	1.3360	1.3329	0.23 %
French Franc	5.4165	5.4235	(0.13) %
Japanese Yen	100.08	100.23	(0.15) %

\* USD Per STD

Euro-Currency Interest Rates\*

Currency	9/12/1994	16/12/1994
U.S. Dollar	6.06	7.43
Sterling Pound	6.12	7.56
Deutsche Mark	5.25	5.75
Swiss Franc	5.75	4.62
French Franc	5.38	6.31
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.56

Interest rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.7040
Sterling Pound	1.0953	1.1008
Deutsche Mark	0.4461	0.4483
Swiss Franc	0.5265	0.5291
French Franc	0.1294	0.1300
Japanese Yen	0.6992	0.7027
Dutch Guilder	0.3960	0.4000
Swedish Krona	0.0428	0.0430
Italian Lira	0.0428	0.0430
Belgian Franc	0.0428	0.0430

\* Per 100

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## Spain trounce Belgium in Euro soccer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Midfielder Luis Enrique Martinez broke down the Belgian defence to lead Spain to a 4-1 win Saturday and extend its perfect record in European Championship qualifying Group 2.

After striker Marc Degryse gave Belgium an early lead, Spain rallied on a goal by Fernando Hierro, a penalty by Donato and a counter-attack goal by Julio Salinas.

After setting up the vital first two goals with sterling play on the right wing, Luis Enrique scored the last goal on a run through the centre with two minutes left.

"What a beating," Degryse said.

The loss before a sellout crowd of 27,000 at the Vanden Stock Stadium seriously dented Belgium's chances to qualify for the 1996 finals in

England. Spain now leads Group 2 with the maximum 12 points out of four games, ahead of Macedonia with five points. Cyprus and Belgium have four points out of four games and defending European Champion Denmark has four out of three games. Armenia has one point. Two qualify for the finals.

"We'd better start working to the World Cup in 1998," said Belgian midfielder Lorenzo Staelens.

In the match, Belgium immediately put the Spaniards under pressure, and it soon paid off.

Newcomer Gilles de Bilde made a deep run on the left and played the ball into the centre from the sideline. Miguel Angel Nadal miscued his clearance, allowing De-

grise to score high into the net from 12 yards.

But soon Spanish class began to tell. Slowly they gained control of midfield and, especially over the right wing, pressure increased.

Luis Enrique Martinez dominated the right wing, and forced two good saves off Michael Preud'Homme around the half hour, on the second save however, the ball rebounded to Hierro.

With his back to the goal, Hierro started juggling the ball in the air, turned, breezed past a line of Belgian defenders and curled the ball past Preud'Homme in the right corner.

Luis Enrique again made the difference on the second goal in the 57th minute. He faked left, right, swept past Rudi Smids, drew three defenders to him in the middle

before giving a perfect pass to Julio Salinas, who was promptly fouled by Philippe Albert.

Donato easily converted the penalty.

Spanish coach Javier Clemente immediately put an extra defender on, but Salinas was still able to continue the pressure. Left open in the centre, he beat Preud'Homme with a right-foot drive in the 68th minute.

Luis Enrique outran the defense a last time to conclude the drubbing in the 88th minute.

Belgium came into the game with two of its biggest stars missing through injury — playmaker Enzo Scifo and central defender Georges Grun. Spanish midfielder Joser Luis Canimero was sidelined with a groin injury.

## Gatien wins table tennis World Cup final

TAIPEI (R) — Frenchman Jean-Philippe Gatien fought back after losing the first two games to beat world number one Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium in the World Cup table tennis final Sunday.

Gatien triumphed 17-21 15-21 21-18 26-24 21-19 in a repeat of last year's world championship final in Gothenburg, Sweden, where the Frenchman beat Saive in five games.

Saive made an impressive start to the final here but during the crucial third game he slipped on the greasy floor and needed medical attention on court from a doctor and nurse.

The Belgian played on but lost the third game and then went down in two nail-biting tussles in the fourth and fifth.

"They wiped the table but they didn't wipe the floor. It was slippery (with sweat)," Saive said.

"I lost some balls in the fourth game because I was afraid of slipping, but I didn't loose (the match) because of this," he added.

World number seven Gatien's success crowned a week of victories over higher ranked players. He beat Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner, ranked two, in the semifinal and China's Wang Tao, ranked three, in the quarter-final.

Gatien said: "I was a little surprised to come back from 2-0 down. My concentration was the key and I played well on important points."

Gatien said his backhand, usually a comparative weakness, worked well, while Saive said his returns of serve were a little off form.

The Frenchman won \$32,000 of the total \$105,000 prize money.

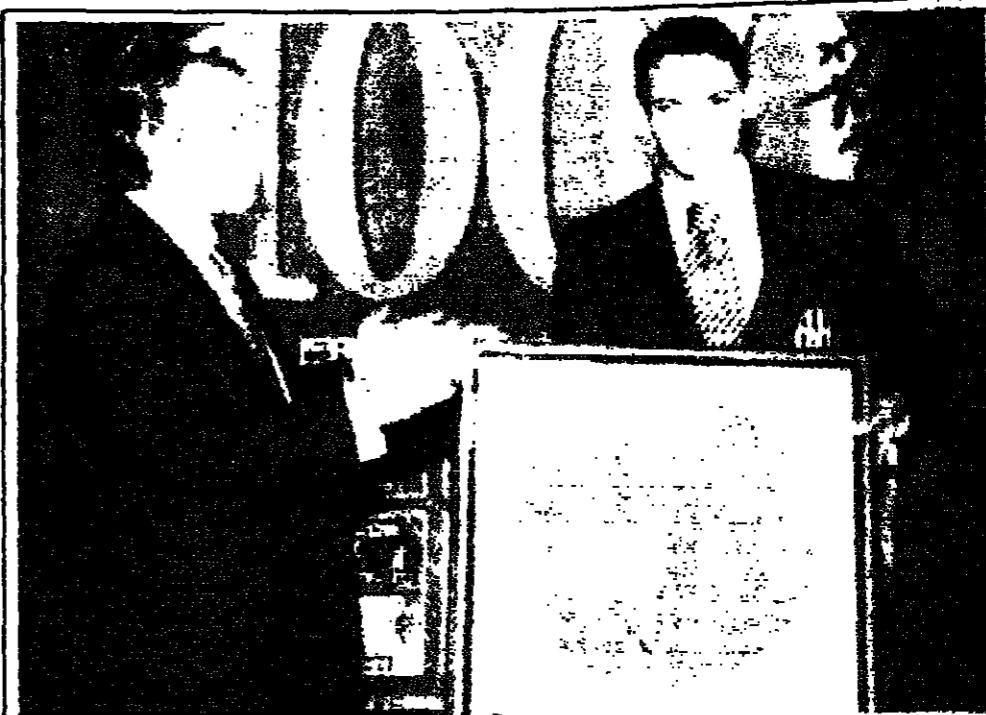
## Forest shatter United Record

LONDON (AFP) — Blackburn extended their lead at the top of the English Premiership on Saturday despite being held to a goalless draw at lowly Leicester as Manchester United's unbeaten home record in the league was brought to an end by Nottingham Forest.

Stan Collymore — reportedly a transfer target for United — and former England captain Stuart Pearce did the damage in a 2-1 Forest victory that ended United's run of 12 consecutive home clean sheets.

The goals were the first that the champions have conceded at Old Trafford in 1,100 minutes of play since April.

Collymore scored his second goal against the Reds this season to give Forest the lead after 35 minutes with a superb 20-yard shot.



Juventus' Roberto Baggio (right) holds the award during the ceremony in which he was named the "best European Soccer Player" (AFP sports journalist Jose Maria Garcia (left) photo)

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## Capturing Christmas spirit with Santa at Alahlia-Abela

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The draw was held at Alahlia-Abela Superstore which since the beginning was involved with the preparation for the Christmas spirit and brought Santa all the way from Finland jointly with British Airways, Pepsi and Hotel Intercontinental. They had Santa in Alahlia-Abela for a photo shoot with the children and presented them with gifts and received their drawings on Jordan.

Santa was also present at Alahlia-Abela on Thursday 15.12.94 and drew the numbers for the lucky winners. Despite that Alahlia-Abela did not stop at that but was very extensive where they have decorated the second floor with Christmas decorations that made the place look sensational giving a real atmosphere for Christmas while buying your Christmas gifts for your loved ones. They are even having a promotion on the second floor which is to buy your child a gift from the second floor and Santa will deliver it to your child personally on Christmas eve Free.

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## Abu Qoura wins season-ending rally tour

By Roofan Nahhas

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After a steamy start on a cold December morning, Mohammad Abu Qoura and co-driver Burhan Abu Qoura drove their Mitsubishi Galant to victory Friday in the Zannussi Rally Tour organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Mu'taz Al Masri and co-driver Mazen Al Kotob in a Volvo 240 came in second, followed by Faris Bustami and Rashed Wakileh in a Nissan 180 KGT in third place.

The event was the last on RACJ's schedule for the season, 22 participants registered, but only 18 set off from the club's headquarters at 9:45 a.m. driving a total distance of 300km on two stages to return to the starting point.

At the start, Tarek Madi and co-driver Wisam Bakir in a Mitsubishi Galant GLX took the lead keeping Bassam Tarazi, Moutaz Masri and Mohammad Abu Qoura behind.

Abu Qoura snatched the lead in the second stage to win first place with total penalties of 00:01:14.

Mu'taz Al Masri took second position from Bassam Tarazi with total

penalties of 00:01:22.

Bassam Tarazi finished sixth leaving third place to Faris Bustami and Rashed Wakileh with total penalties of 00:01:34.

Tarek Taba'a who led the season's rally tour withdrew from the competition in the first stage.

After this event RACJ ended Jordan's autosports season by honouring the top drivers' in the prize-giving ceremony when the final result of the rally tour were announced late Saturday evening.

Here are the rankings of Jordan's Drivers Open Championship for the season after Friday's result:

- 1) Bassam Bustami, (186 points).
- 2) Ahmad Danod (144.5 points).
- 3) Faris Bustami (119.5 points).
- 4) Amar Hijazi (112 points).

"The Rally Tours provide a great opportunity for new drivers to enter the competition," said Muneir Moasher, who participated with Ali Al Obeidi in a Nissan NX and finished 10th. "We need more practice and it is an unequal competition as some drivers own 'Tune masters' which can help them in their calculations," he told the Jordan Times.

## CYCLING 1994

### Indurain, Lemond in opposite directions

PARIS (AP) — The first few days of December had the two cyclists that dominated the last six years heading in different directions.

On Dec. 1, Miguel Indurain began his training for a record fifth consecutive Tour de France title. It's a tradition for the Spaniard to get back on his bike the first day of December, something he has done since 1984.

A few days later Greg Lemond, who dominated the sport before Indurain rode to power, announced his retirement from competition. Since 1984 he has made his presence felt in the Tour de France, whether by winning or dropping out.

Lemond said he had a rare muscular disease, mitochondrial myopathy, which sapped his strength the past three seasons. The 33-year-old American said he made his decision after considering the results of months of testing.

Between them, Lemond and Indurain had won every Tour de France since 1989. At one time, Lemond had a record of three victories, a second and a third in his first six Tours de France. A 1987 shooting accident kept him

sidelined for most of two seasons. He returned in 1989 but he faltered while in the lead by eight seconds in the closest finish of the race's history.

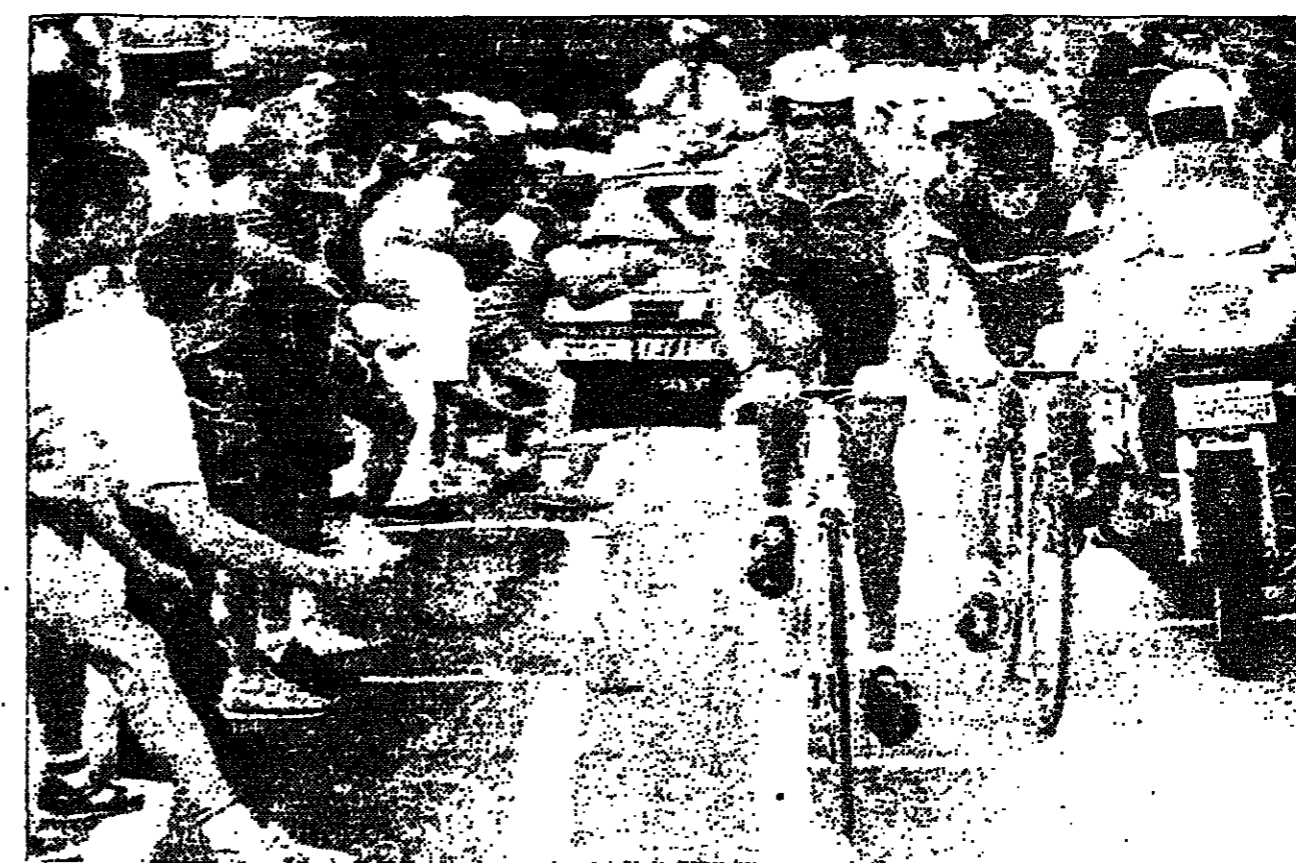
Lemond won again in 1990 but he faltered while in the lead in 1991 and faded to seventh as Indurain won. Lemond never finished another Tour, dropping out in 1992 and 1994 while not starting in 1993.

Indurain, meanwhile, has been winning his tours by larger margins every year since 1991. His dominance of this year's race came within a four-day period of this year's loop. One-by-one his past, present and, perhaps, future rivals dropped out.

Italy's Claudio Chiappucci and Gianni Bugno, who traded steps on the winner's podium in 1991 and 1992, went out.

Tony Rominger of Switzerland, who was Indurain's biggest challenger after a second in 1993, dropped out. An intestinal virus was the major reason but his morale was broken by not being able to keep up with Indurain.

Lance Armstrong, who was expected to replace Lemond as the top American after his victory in the 1993 world professional championships, also stopped, not wanting to test himself in the



Miguel Indurain (left) and Gianni Bugno struggle up a climb

mountains for the second consecutive year.

Meanwhile Indurain kept riding on, making this year's race exciting only in the battle for second place. Russian Piotr Ugrumov came in second this year but was far from Indurain's level.

Another Russian, Yevgeny Berzin, won the Tour of Italy over Indurain but did not ride in the Tour de France. However many observers said that the Italian race was just pre-

paration for Indurain.

When the prestige is on the line, such as it is in the Tour de France, Indurain overpowers everyone, as he does in the time trials.

Others may get the world titles, such as Luc Leblanc of France. Rominger may get the top ranking of the World Cycling Federation for the entire year as well as the world's one-hour record and third consecutive Tour of Spain.

But the one title they all want to win is the one that Indurain has had for the last four years. No one is betting against him at the moment in his drive for five.

Bernard Hinault and Jacques Anquetil of France and Eddy Merckx of Belgium each have five tour titles but not in consecutive years.

Lemond could have joined them if he had stayed heal-

thy. After his victory in 1990, few people were betting against him.

However he declined in the following years but will be long remembered as the rider who made the United States notice European cycling.

"Greg was the first, he went to a European sport and brought an American attitude and American personality to it," Armstrong said.

## Nantes extend unbeaten run with away win

PARIS (R) — French League leaders Nantes extended their unbeaten run to 22 matches by winning 2-0 at Caen Saturday to stay two points clear of Champions Paris St. Germain.

The ambitious Paris club, recovering after a tentative start to the season, beat Strasbourg 1-0 with David Ginola scoring from the penalty spot after 35 minutes. The league now takes a

break until January 7. Four days later youthful Nantes and experienced PSG clash at the Parc Des Princes in the capital.

Nantes took the lead at Caen in the 24th minute thanks to Chadian striker Japhet N'Doram. Caen defender Emmanuel Rival put the issue beyond doubt by scoring an own goal under pressure from international Nicolas Ouedec in the 67th minute.

"It was very important for

us to win before the winter break and I'm particularly pleased by the way the team played tonight," Nantes technical director Robert Budzinski said.

"One would expect the players to be tired by they're still going strong." Paris looked sluggish against Strasbourg after expending considerable energy on the European front. They won all their six Champions League matches to reach the European Cup quarter-finals in grand style.

"We have played more matches than any other team and the players definitely need some holidays," the Paris club's deputy chairman Michel Denisot said. "But our goal is still to retain our title and I really believe we can make it."

A goalless home draw against Bastia allowed Lyon to move up one place to third ahead of Cannes, who lost 3-2 at Metz.

Monaco, badly needing points to book a place in Europe, looked set to win at

Auxerre after Youri Djorkaeff scored twice in the first nine minutes.

But Auxerre fought back in the second half to force a draw with goals by Moussa Sahib and Pascal Vahirua. Monaco, hampered by a string of injuries, are a disappointing 11th, 18 points behind Nantes.

Struggling Sochaux dropped to last place by losing 1-0 at Lille. Caen and Montpellier are on 18 points alongside Sochaux but have a better goal difference.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH  
©1994, Tribune Media Services

**COMBINE THOSE CHANCES**  
North-South vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 9 8  
♥ 7  
♦ A K J 9 7 4  
♣ 10 8 5 3

**WEST**  
♠ Q J 8 5 4  
♥ A 10 9 4 3 2  
♦ Q 8  
♣ A 9 7 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 10  
♥ K J 5  
♦ 10 5  
♣ K Q J 5 2

The bidding:  
South: West: North: East

Opening lead: Four of ♣  
This hand was dealt in a World Championship match some years ago. One declarer succeeded in making the no-trump game; one did not. In our opinion, neither found the best line.

West's two-club overall showed the major suits. North's jump to three no trump without a stopper in either major was a well-reasoned bid. Since South had little or nothing in diamonds, the no-trump opening almost surely included stoppers in both major suits.

West led the fourth-best heart and declarer could not come to nine tricks without developing one of the minors. At one table South decided West probably had the ace of clubs

to intervene, so after winning the queen of hearts with the king at trick two, the king of clubs was led. East grabbed the ace and reverted to hearts—down two.

At the other table South chose to make all on the diamond suit. Here the diamond ten was run at trick two and all was well—nine tricks came in.

Both declarers were on the right track. However, they should have combined chances. We think declarer should win the first trick and play on diamonds, but by cashing the ace-king rather than banking everything on the finesse. If the queen does not appear, declarer falls back on clubs. The contract will make if West has the ace because declarer still has a positional stopper in hearts.

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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**24** Catch the Christmas spirit with candle lights and hot drinks. A Delicious Christmas Eve Dinner will be served plated at AL WALIMA and AL MANSAF for JD 15,000 ++

**25** Traditional Continental & Middle Eastern Salad Bar Market on our Christmas Day Lunch Buffet Menu is served at AL WALIMA and AL MANSAF for JD 13,500 ++

**31** Celebrate New Year's Eve and have a Dinner Buffet at AL MANSAF Restaurant for JD 30,000 ++

**19** *Children's Party*  
HO HO HO... On December 19th from 4 to 6 p.m. a special party will be held for the children with Santa Claus and his gifts JD 7,000 inclusive

Celebrations continue with New Year's Morning Early Breakfast from 3 a.m. to 10 a.m. for JD 6,900 ++

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**ماريوت عمان**

## 2 killed in Bahrain violence

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Two young Bahrainis were killed Sunday in dawn clashes in a Muslim Shiite village in the worst violence since riots erupted a week ago in the Gulf states, witnesses said.

Police for the first time used helicopters to try to break up the crowd in the village of Sanabes, west of Manama, and also fired tear gas and rubber bullets, the witnesses contacted by the AFP from Nicosia said.

Fighting also raged overnight in other Shiite villages, they said. "Inhabitants were literally ordered to stay at home and lock the doors," one witness said.

Tensions were also said to be running high in the capital Manama, where the riots erupted last Monday to demand the release of Shiite Muslim leader Sheikh Ali Salman.

Police vehicles were posted at the city's strategic points, and especially near the hotel where the 15th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is due to open Monday.

Earlier Sunday, Bahrain for the first time admitted there were "troubles" in the country in which a policeman had been killed, others wounded and damage caused.

A statement from the Interior Ministry acknowledged the rioters were demanding the release of Sheikh Salman arrested after calling for the restoration of parliament which was dissolved in 1975.

It added that security forces had the situation under control and would do everything to restore law and order.

And it blamed the violence on a plot engineered from abroad.

A London-based dissident group, the Bahrain Freedom Movement, said on Friday that hundreds had been arrested for demanding the recall of parliament and the release of political prisoners.

Official sources in Bahrain said the protests during this week's Bahrain national day celebrations and ahead of Monday's GCC summit here were limited and life and business in the island was unaffected.

The authorities "are in control of the situation and will take the necessary measures to bring back order and security," said the statement released overnight by the official agency GNA and received in Dubai.

"From the start these incidents have not been spontaneous but have been planned and accompanied by a propaganda campaign from abroad," it added.

According to the statement, the "troubles" broke out on the same day as Sheikh Salman's arrest and have "continued almost daily."

Sheikh Salman who "returned two years ago from a long stay abroad" had been arrested for his involvement in an incident in Manama in November.

"A group of individuals, including some who were masked and armed with batons attacked and threw stones at participants in an annual marathon" on Nov. 25 in Manama, the statement said.

Security forces intervened and two of their men were wounded while a vehicle was damaged. "The demonstrators were dispersed and 12 of them arrested," it added.

In questioning Sheikh Salman "confirmed he had himself planned" the incident.

After his arrest "his assistants and supporters gathered in the (Shiite-Muslim dominated) towns of Bilad Al Qadim and Al Khamis," near Manama.

"Armed with batons, stones and blunt instruments they threatened passers-by, committing acts of vandalism, cutting off roads and attacking security forces," the statement added.

"These incidents were repeated almost daily, causing a number of wounded among the police and material damage," the statement added.

## Majali urges West to aid PNA

### Czech minister holds wide-ranging talks in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday urged Western countries to provide the Palestine National Authority (PNA) with the promised funds to help it establish and enhance its rule and build the required infrastructure for socio-economic development.

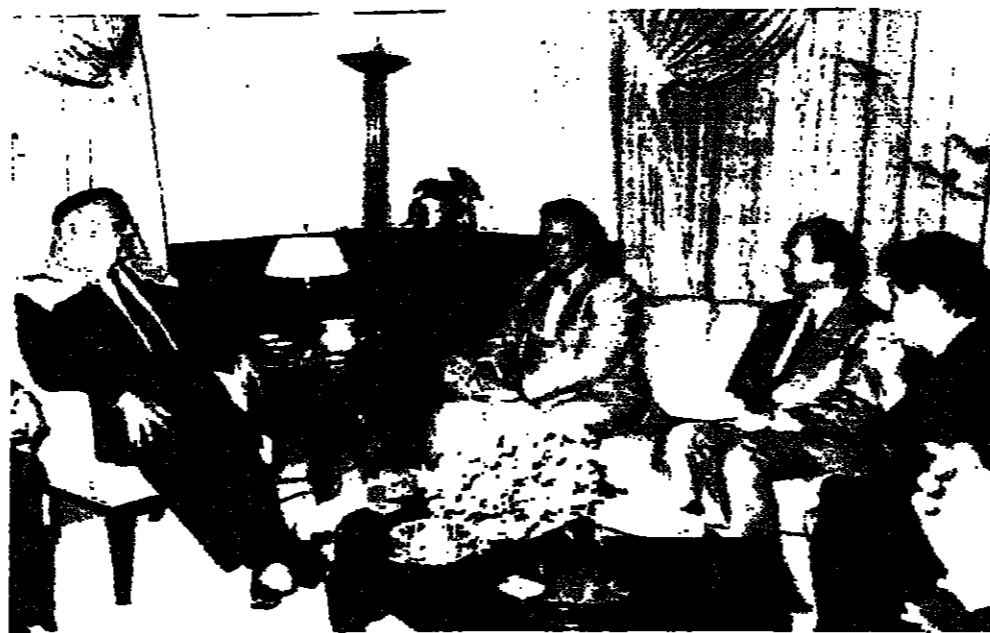
Speaking at a meeting in his office with Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dlouhy, Dr. Majali noted that the West had promised to provide funds to the PNA not only to pay the salaries of its employees and police force but also to build infrastructure.

He said the donors should also stop throwing suspicion on the PNA's ability to handle the funds.

The prime minister said Jordan was keen on promoting its cooperation with the Czech Republic.

He also expressed Jordan's desire to enter trade agreements with the Czech Republic and to increase the exchanges of visits by officials and businessmen to discuss cooperation in developing agriculture and natural resources in Jordan.

Dr. Dlouhy voiced his country's support for the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty, and said Jordan enjoys very good reputation worldwide making it eligible for invest-



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday meets with a delegation from the Czech Republic (Petra photo)

ments and the focus of attention.

The Czech official met later with Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irshaidat and discussed prospects for joint Czech-Jordanian ventures in water resources.

Mr. Irshaidat briefed the Czech official on irrigation and water projects in the Kingdom.

Dr. Rima Khalaf, minister of industry and trade, met also with Dr. Dlouhy and a

team accompanying him and discussed prospects for launching joint industrial ventures like glass, home appliances, and engineering industries, and in tourism.

Dr. Khalaf briefed the minister on Jordan's laws on encouraging investments in Jordan.

The Czech minister also held a meeting with Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif to discuss exchanges of agricultural tools and the sale

of Jordanian produce to the Czech Republic in winter.

Discussion over prospects for Czech-Jordanian cooperation in energy related affairs were discussed by Dr. Dlouhy and the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources. The two ministers explored the prospect of joint ventures to exploit oil shale which is found in abundance in the Kingdom and cooperation in geological studies.

## Definite agreements on cooperation next year, Czech minister says

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and the Czech Republic will enter agreements on trade, protection of investment and taxation next year, Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dlouhy said Sunday.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Dlouhy described the talks he held with Minister of Trade and Industry Rima Khalaf as "very profound" that produced "tangible results."

"Agreements on trade, mutual protection of investment and avoidance of double taxation will be concluded next year," he said.

Dr. Dlouhy, the first Czech government member to visit the Kingdom since Czechoslovakia was split into two entities in 1991, said that his

meetings here were "intensive and successful."

In response to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's call for Western aid to the Palestine National Authority (PNA) (see story above), Dr. Dlouhy said he hoped the Czech Republic would be able to provide support.

"We hope to be involved in the construction of infrastructure in the occupied territories," he said.

Dr. Dlouhy said that he had come to Amman to improve Jordanian-Czech relations and to promote the Czech Republic.

On trade exchange, the balance of which is currently in favour of the Czech Republic, Dr. Dlouhy said: "Jordanian exports to the Czech Republic are low and all day I have been urging that the Jordanian private sector be

encouraged to participate in joint ventures."

In addition, he said, he hoped for increased exports of Jordanian produce to the republic and increased imports of Czech agricultural machinery to the Kingdom.

Dr. Dlouhy said that the Czech Republic recognised the issue of water as important and strategic. He added that the Czech Republic is very active in the production of irrigation equipment.

Regarding energy and industry, he said that the Czech Republic had proposed tenders for power-generation projects, in particular the planned expansion in Aqaba and in general the further development of electricity production network.

"I believe that the tender bid for the Aqaba project will be successful," Dr. Dlouhy asserted.

The minister also met with Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC) Chairman Haidar Murad and discussed exchanges between the ACC and its Czech counterparts.

"Links with the ACC are important to provide a basis through which small and large enterprises in both countries can learn about each other," said Dr. Dlouhy.

His 24-hour visit to Amman, the Czech minister said, improved the possibility of investment here, although he added that the Czech private sector was still not capable of direct investment, but many firms would be able to participate in long term investments.

Dr. Dlouhy affirmed that his talks here were part of a larger strategy for Czech involvement in the Middle East region.

## Princess Basma, Belgian deputy review interaction in women-related issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Sunday received Belgian parliament member Anne Marie Lizin and discussed with her means of enhancing Jordanian-Belgian cooperation in issues related to women.

Princess Basma briefed Mrs. Lizin on Jordanian women's achievements and the important role women play in the Kingdom's public life.

The Princess reviewed with Mrs. Lizin preparations for the fourth world conference on women to be held in Beijing and explained the outcome of related Arab meetings held in Amman in November.

Mrs. Lizin stressed Jordan's important role in the region and assured Princess Basma of her country's continuous cooperation and support for Jordan.

Also on Sunday, Princess Basma received the president and members of the Global Commission on Women's Health and was briefed on the committee's objectives and goals.

The commission, an advisory body to the World Health Organisation (WHO), was established in 1992 under a World Health Assembly

(WHA) resolution. The commission groups eminent personalities from a broad range of disciplines, including political, scientific and professional leaders from various parts of the world.

The commission's terms of reference include producing an agenda for action on women's health, supplying decision-makers with data on women's socio-economic and health conditions and providing a forum for consultation and dialogue with women's organisations, and other groups concerned with women's causes.

Princess Basma acceptance to serve as a member of the commission in response to an invitation extended to her by WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima. Princess Basma relayed her acceptance to join the commission's membership in a letter she sent to Dr. Nakajima early this month.

The president and members of the commission stressed the importance of placing women's health high on the development agenda and called for including it on the agenda of the world summit for social development which will be held in Copenhagen in March and the Beijing conference on women.

## Justice Ministry works on updating laws — Tal

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Justice Hisham Al Tal said Sunday his ministry would seek to develop legislation related to the work of the judiciary.

At a meeting with a group of journalists and columnists, Mr. Tal said there were several draft laws, including one that covers the civil courts system, which would be debated by Parliament. The ministry will continue to develop and update similar laws, he said.

He praised the role of the judiciary in adhering to legislation, and said the ministry was planning to initiate a new programme for training judges and building bridges of contact between experienced judges and newly appointed judges. As part of

of these schemes, he said, the ministry also plans to hold course and to publish a magazine.

"We seek to offer a distinguished judicial service to citizens in a way conforming to the requirements of our age," the minister said.

He complained that the financial allocations for the Ministry of Justice were short of its needs, noting that there was a pressing need for having a housing scheme for judges.

The minister and the audience then had a discussion on the judiciary and means of reconsidering laws, including a draft law on information and investigations on stories published by newspapers by the general prosecutor's office.

## Riyadh blames Yemen for clash on border

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia on Sunday blamed Yemen for an armed clash on their disputed border which it said left a Saudi worker dead.

A Saudi spokesman, quoted by the official news agency SPA, also denied Sanaa's accusations that it had violated Yemen's territorial integrity.

Sanaa said on Dec. 7 that Saudi Arabia had built roads and set up observation posts on Yemeni territory, and revealed that the two countries' troops had clashed in the disputed region.

But the Saudi spokesman said the clash in early December was "a Yemeni aggression against Saudi territory, during which (Yemeni forces) penetrated 10 kilometres inside the border."

"All Saudi Arabia had done was to build a road to link isolated Saudi villages, which are on Saudi territory in line with the Taef treaty," he added.

"Yemeni forces opened fire and killed one of the labourers who was working on the road."

Saudi Arabia and Yemen are locked in a long-running dispute over their border, notably in the Najran, Jizan and Assir regions which have been under Saudi control

since the 1934 Taef agreement.

Yemen maintains the agreement expired in September 1992 and says it does not want it extended.

The Saudi spokesman said that to prevent an escalation after the clash, the two sides held a meeting during which "our Yemeni brothers expressed understanding of the Saudi point of view."

He said a similar meeting would be held in coming days without giving details on who would attend.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Saturday he would meet Saudi King Fahd in coming weeks to resolve the conflict.

Mr. Saleh said the two neighbours had successfully contained armed border clashes and that he had held "positive and brotherly" talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz on the sidelines of an Islamic summit last week.

"We examined bilateral issues including: the border question, and we agreed to continue contact," the president said, adding that a "Saudi-Yemeni summit meeting will take place in coming weeks."

"Other joint committees will be set up to examine the problems," he added.

## Massive power cuts hit Algeria; food store blasted

TUNIS (R) — Massive power cuts, believed caused by sabotage, have blacked out parts of the Algerian capital where a central food store was blown up and burnt in an attack by 40 armed men, media and diplomatic sources said on Sunday.

Algerian state radio on Sunday quoted the Algerian electricity company as saying power cuts in Algiers and the neighbouring region of Blida that started last Wednesday night would last a further three to four days.

Blida town, which is both the headquarters of the country's main military region covering the capital and regarded as a Muslim fun-

kilometres south of Algiers. Cuts were being rotated between areas and life remained normal, the radio said.

It did not explain what it described as a "dangerous incident" but two Algerian newspapers said guerrillas had blown up power pylons supplying the capital.

An armed group has hit a high tension line feeding Algiers," the daily Tribune said, quoting unnamed sources.

The independent El Watan, generally well-informed on security issues, said five power pylons were blown up near Zemmoura town some 50 kilometres

## COLUMBIA

### British newspaper names \$27 million lottery winner

LONDON (R) — A newspaper, in a move to certain to cause further controversy around Britain's new National Lottery, Sunday named the winner of a \$17.8 million (\$27.82 million) jackpot despite his pleas to remain anonymous. The News of the World splashed a picture of the winner and his wife across the front page with the headline "it was him." Inside it gave his name together with more details and photographs of the man who scooped the massive prize. Media frenzy over the identity of the winner of Britain's biggest lottery prize has led to questions in parliament and a court battle between lottery organisers and newspaper editors.

The High Court gave newspapers the go-ahead to name last week's winner, an ethnic Indian Muslim immigrant hunted down by tabloids eager for a "rags to riches" tale. But after overturning the injunction taken out by lottery organisers Camelot, tabloid newspaper editors had decided not to reveal who the mystery man was. The News of the World was unrepentant. "This story is not an intrusion into private grief, but a celebration of public joy," it said in an editorial.

"It breaks no law or code of practice," a spokesman for Camelot said he was "very disappointed" by the newspaper's decision to publish the winner's name. He refused to confirm whether it was correct.

## Woman freed after killing lesbian housemate

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — A Malaysian factory worker, accused of murdering her housemate who made lesbian advances on her, has been freed after a court accepted her claim of self-defence. The Sunday Star newspaper said, Junaini Mohamed Yusoff, 34, grasped her lawyer's hands and tearfully thanked him after a seven-man jury ruled Saturday that she had not deliberately killed Fauziah Ahmad, 34. The trial — in Malaysia's northern Penang State High Court, was one of the shortest murder cases heard in the country — lasting just eight days after Junaini claimed Fauziah had tried to rape her before the killing on Oct. 11, 1991. The delay in the case coming to trial was due to a backlog in criminal cases in Malaysia. Junaini, dressed in attire common to religious Muslims, said she would turn to prayers in a bid to put the incident behind her.

## Swiss golden boy gets 5-year prison term

GENEVA (AFP) — One of Switzerland's most flamboyant figures of the 1980s, whose interests ran from football to rock music, has been sentenced in Geneva to five years in prison for embezzling 13 million Swiss francs (\$10 million). Didier Tornare, a former notary now aged 40, was a familiar sight in the south of France, and dabbled in property, sport (he was vice-president of the main Geneva football club Servette FC) and show business, as an early backer of the French flamenco-rock group of Gipsy Kings. The court found that he had abused the confidence of his friends and clients though it accepted that he was now genuinely sorry for what he had done and ready to pay back the money stolen. Mr. Tornare, known as a "golden boy," had been extradited from Florida and spent a year in prison before being freed on bail in September 1993.

## Swedish military test bulletproof igloos

JUKKASJAERVI, Sweden (AFP) — Sweden's military are pondering whether to use bullet-proof igloos after recent tests showed the snow bunkers resist both gunfire and grenades, army Colonel Per Mohlin said Friday. Swedish soldiers, who have been testing for some time now, found neither automatic weapons nor grenades succeeded in piercing the igloos. Sub-machine-gun bullets

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